KECK CHARLES
WABASH INDIANA

DRAWER 21a

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Statues of Abraham Lincoln

Charles Keck

Wabash, Indiana

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02825

Keck Lincoln Statue at Wabash, Indiana

The Story of the Lincoln Monument

It was in February or March of 1929 that I was asked to meet a group at the Court House regarding the erection of a Statue of Abraham Lincoln on the Court House Lawn. There I met Charles Keck, a prominent sculptor of New Rochelle, New York, and a Mr. Benisch, who had the contract of furnishing the granite used as a base for the Memorial. The ladies present were the sisters of Alexander Sew, a Jewish boy who left Wabash 15 tecuse antagonism as attorney. He had made good in a big way, and planned to honor his father and mother by the erection of a bronze heroic statue of Abraham Lincoln. I remember Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Sue Pettit, and several others in the group that day. The proposed monument by blue print and picture was shown to the group, and the details were disclosed. A sum of $75,000.00 had been allotted by Mr. Sew as the cost of the entire project, but two years of the depression compelled the cancelling of a portion of the overall project. Mr. Benisch of the monument firm from New York City told me the entire cost would be $30,000. I was in the monument business at the time as well as being in the Mayors office, and I asked who was going to put the monument in place. He told me that a Chicago firm had agreed to place the job for $250.00. I asked about the weight of the heaviest pieces of stone, and discovered that four of the pieces weighed four tons each and the smaller pieces weighed three tons, with the bronze statue at 1600 pounds. I immediately put in a bid for $240.00, and got the job of placing the statue. For $20.00 we got Fred Hoffman, a local cement man to put in the concrete foundation on the solid rock. By the middle of May, 1929, the pieces of granite and the bronze statue arrived in a box car on the Wabash R.R. I got hold of Ollie Bowen, who had set many monuments for me for years, and with eight or nine men, we pulled our resources on rollers, oak plank and blocks, and three derricks set the monument as you see it now in its permanent position at the corner of the Court House Lawn. We also had the advice and the assistance of some three hundred onlookers to help with the work. As we set the four bas-reliefs to place Samuel Beckenbaugh, the father of the boys, Paul and Ben, came about it he might place a number of pictures, which I did, in the space under the six pieces of bronze. I readily agreed, and to most who are reading inscription, do not appear until noon. Then inscriptions were carefully placed in that open space, the contents of which, designed for the people to know read and look at in a thousand years. And let me add here that unless all is at stake, that statue built on solid rock will be right there. The granite is Barre Dark Quincy, the best blue granite obtainable. Great plans were made for the Dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. Dr Frank Jaynes, beloved pastor of the Christian Church made the address. The crowd was enormous. The Sew sisters were there as well as Charles Keck. As the Mayor, I accepted the monument in behalf of the city. The date was May 30 1929.

At the time, we didn't know that we were the recipients of the finest Lincoln that had ever been produced. Mr. Keck told me that he had visited all the Lincolns, and decided this would be a composite of all the Lincoln monuments in the country. It took him seventy years to finally get just the clay model he wanted before it was cast in bronze. A yearer or later, Robert Hagerty, with whom I spent four years in college, had charge of the parks and monuments in the State of Illinois, and was in charge of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, told me personally that we did have the finest Lincoln in the world right here in Wabash. I had several letters from Charles Keck thanks at later dates and he told me he had commission to produce a duplicate of the Wabash Lincoln to some city in the east. A few people in Wabash, any way, know or appreciate what we have on the Court House lawn, or the possibilities of attracting tourists to our city to view this statue of the Immortal Lincoln. Thousands of our Ideal Boy Scout troops from this city and the surrounding area on make their annual pilgrimage to do homage to the immortal Lincoln on his birthday. And we shall remember the donor, Alexander Sew, who wished to honor his father and mother with this gift to the City of Wabash.

Grant F. Mossaller

Hingham, Mass.

The Story of the Lincoln Monument

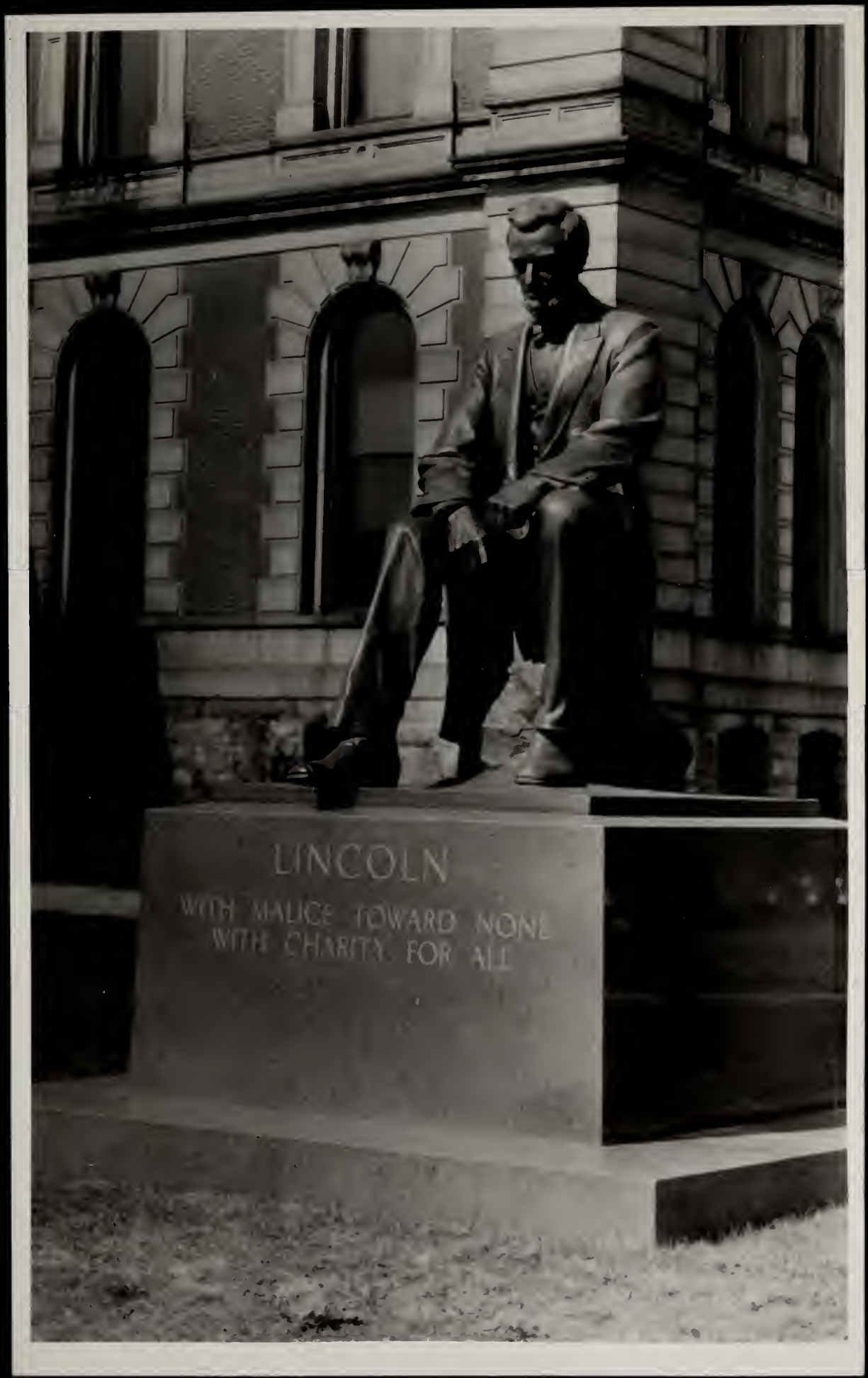
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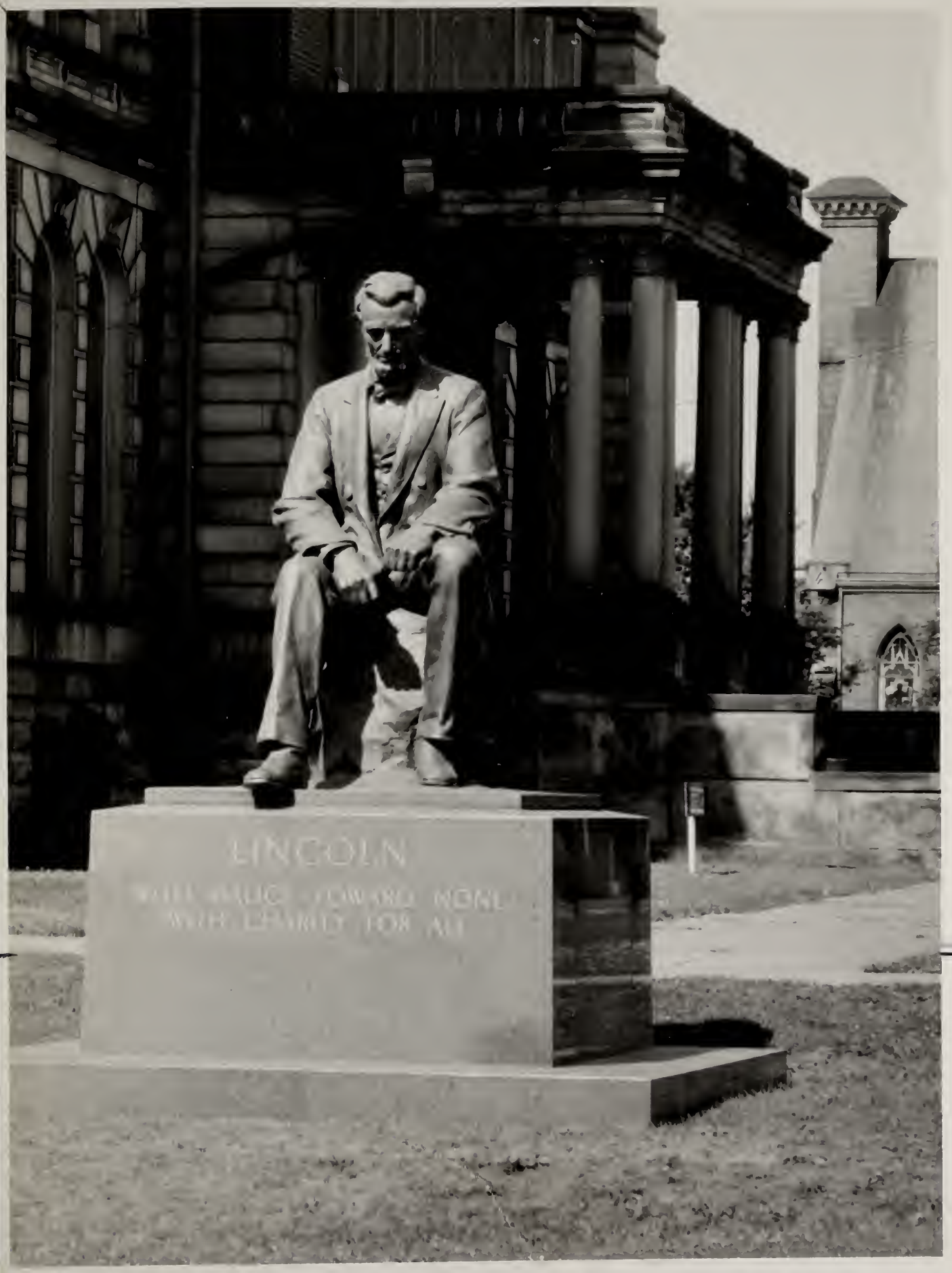
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Homer T. Showalter



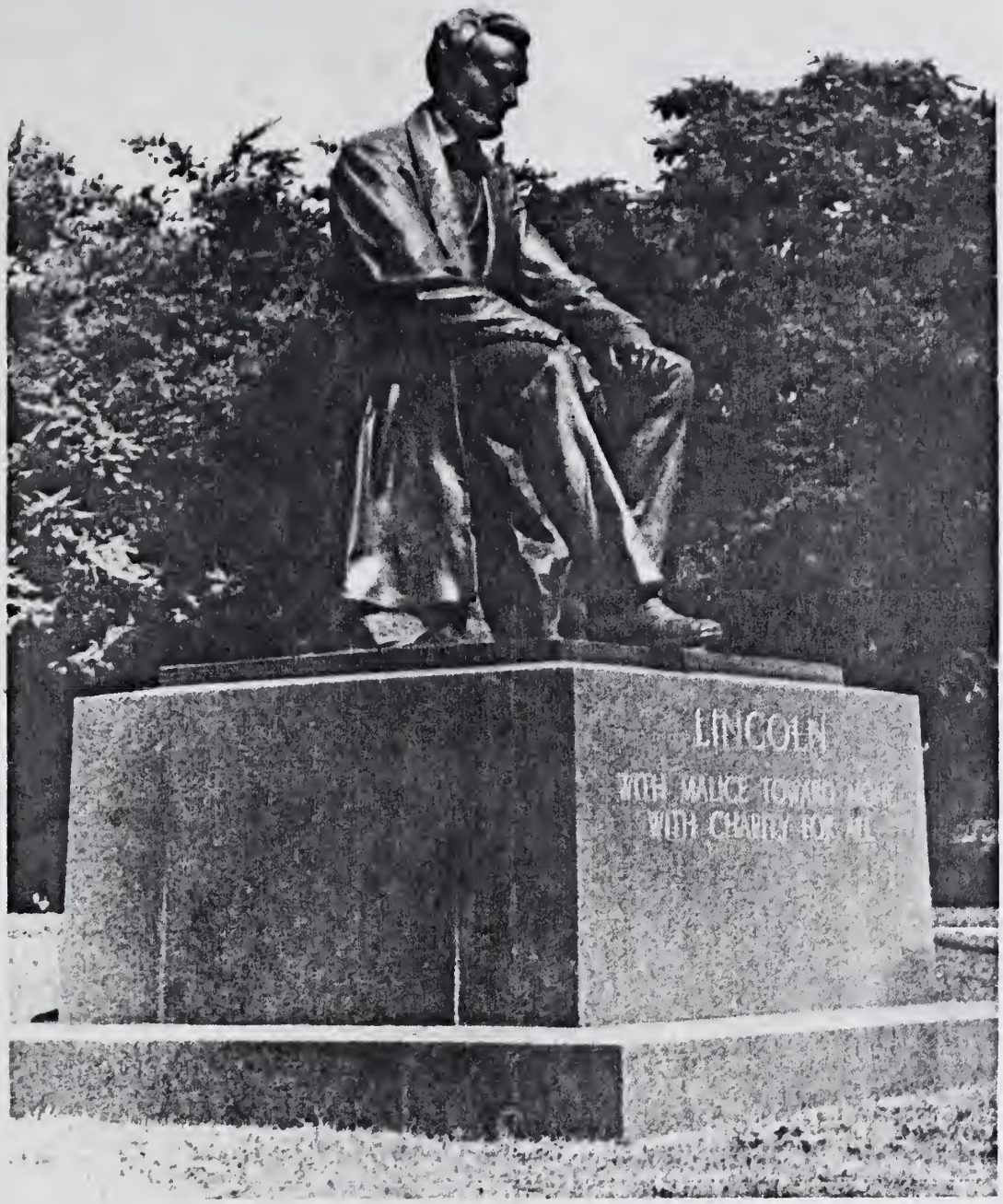
Wabash, Ind


LINCOLN
WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE
WITH CHARITY FOR ALL


LINCOLN

Statue 61 - 1932

Charles Keck
Walash, Ind.



No. 21. THE PRESIDENT BY CHARLES KECK

Show this

Indianapolis News
24 April 17, 1931

WILL PROVIDES STATUE

Memorial at Wabash to Honor New York Merchant's Parents.

NEW YORK, April 17 (A.P.)—Completion of a statue of Abraham Lincoln, at Wabash, Ind., is provided for in the will of Alexander New, banker and merchant, filed here for probate. A paragraph in the will said the statue was being erected in the Courthouse yard at Wabash as a memorial to New's father and mother, and directed that any balance due at the time of his death be paid from the general estate.

The will also provided that each of his three sisters, Nellie N. Livingston and Janette N. Blumenthal, both of Marion, Ind., and Rosetta N. Myers Pittsburgh, receive a life interest in trust funds amounting to $200,000 each and a share of one-third of his residuary estate. New, who died April 5, in Tucson, Ariz., was the owner of the Mercantile Stores, Inc., and was connected with the Chase National Bank. He also provided a life interest in $50,000 for Theodore New, a brother, of San Francisco, and a quantity of stock for a nephew, Morris Blumenthal, Marion, Ind.

CITY OF WABASH TO BE PRESENTED LINCOLN STATUE

Gift of Late New York Millionaire Will Be Made Soon; Cost Is $75,000.

FIGURE IS 7 FEET HIGH

(Special to The News-Sentinel)

WABASH, Ind., Jan. 8.—Although official notification has not yet been made, it is understood that plans are under way for the presentation to the city of Wabash of a statue of Abraham Lincoln, the gift of the late Alexander New, millionaire business man of New York, and a native of Wabash. Mr. New signified his intention several years ago of presenting the gift and the figure was under way at the time of his death. The cost was approximately $75,000.

The figure of Lincoln is seated on a rock and is seven feet high. It is of bronze and the sculptor was Charles Keck, New York.

Dr. James Wilson, ex-mayor, saw the finished statue on a recent trip to New York and was told by Frederick Muserve, business associate of the late Mr. New that preparations will soon be made to present the gift. Mr. New died last spring in California after a brief illness.

"At that time he had been given charge of some bankrupt store and would go very early in the morning—before hours for legal work began—and get things started off; would see that delivery horses were all right and look after all the small details of a small business.

"That store was the beginning of Alex New's success in that line of work. That, as everybody knows, was where he made his fortune."

At his death he was chairman of the board of directors of the Merchantile Stores, Inc., and some reports say owned the majority of the stock. This company with its 23 retail stores is rated at millions.

Lincoln Statue City Gift From Alexander New

Completion of a statue of Abraham Lincoln to be erected here is provided for by Alexander New, banker and merchant, in his will which was admitted to probate in New York yesterday.

A paragraph in the will stated that the statue is now being made and is to be erected in the courtyard as a memorial to Mr. New's father and mother and directs that any balance due at the time of his death be paid from the general estate.

Mrs. Nellie Livingston, a sister, who also lived for many years in Wabash, is with two other sisters a beneficiary of the will, each to receive a life interest in trust funds amounting to $200,000 each and a share of one third of the residuary estate.

Mr. New also provided a life interest in $50,000 for Theodore New, a brother of San Francisco, and a quantity of stock for a nephew, Morris Blumenthal, of Marion. Besides Mrs. Livingston, the two sisters provided for in the will are Mrs. Rosetta Myers, of Pittsburgh, and Mrs. Janette Blumenthal, of Marion.

Mr. New, who died in Tuscon, April 5, was the owner of the Mercantile Stores, Inc., and was a director of the Chase National bank, New York.

He was born here, lived his early life in Wabash, and visited here at intervals in later years. He was brought here for burial.

CITY OF WABASH OFFERED TWO SITES FOR STATUE

Lincoln Memorial May Be Placed in Court House Yard or City Park.

GIFT OF ALEXANDER NEW

(Special to The News-Sentinel) 1932

WABASH, Ind., Feb. 3.—Permission was obtained from the board of county commissioners and from the city council to place a memorial statue of Abraham Lincoln, gift of the late Alexander New, millionaire business man of New York, either on the courthouse yard or in the city park.

The sculptor, Charles Keck, and Frederick H. Muserve, the latter a close personal friend of Mr. New, will select the site. They are to arrive in Wabash in the near future.

Alexander New was born and reared in Wabash and made plans before his death a year ago in California to make a gift to his native city. The statue of Lincoln, now being cast in bronze, was chosen. It was unfinished at the time of his death, but the completion of it was provided for in his will. The cost was $75,000.

W. A. McNamee and Dr. James E. Wilson, both personal friends of Mr. New, appeared before the county and city officials to ask permission to place the memorial.

The Lantern

By Katherine Ramsey

There will be much interest in the Lincoln statue that is to be a gift to Wabash from the late Alexander New, banker and merchant. During his lifetime Mr. New had the work started and his will, made public yesterday, provides that the figure shall be finished and erected on the courthouse lawn here.

In the commercial world, Mr. New was a national figure. He left Wabash many years ago. He was born here, grew up here and spent part of his young manhood in this city.

But Wabash did not give him much. In the intervening years he had been lost sight of a great deal, and he visited here but seldom. As a boy, this city gave him the same chance that any small town in the Middle West—or any other small town—gives to its boys.

And yet he has seen fit to remember Wabash in a fine way. He always liked Wabash and Wabash people, say those who occasionally saw him. That he kept a warm spot in his heart for the place of his birth is evident by the fact that he remembered us with a part of the fortune to which he gave his best years and energies.

There were a thousand other ways in which Mr. New might have spent the money which the Lincoln statue will cost. Yet his birth place was near enough to his heart that he provided a gift that will be a thing of beauty and possibly inspiration to thousands for many, many years—long after he will probably have been forgotten, except possibly by those who were very near to him. For that is the lot of most mortals.

The statue is to cost far up into the thousands and will probably be a work of art such as is given to very few places to possess. The great cities may have them, not the average town or even city.

Mr. New is the bestower of the gift and therefore the best—really the old judge—of the kind of gift. Everybody has his or her pet ideas and the chances are that if put to a popular vote as to what $50,000 or $75,000 should be spent for to fill a Wabash need there would be some 5,000 suggestions.

After all, too, it is a mark of ingratitude to find fault with a gift, not to mention courtesy. The judgment of the giver, rather than the receiver, is important.

Dr. James Wilson, who knew Mr. New personally, visited him some months ago when in New York.

A man of large and many affairs, and happening to be not well at that particular time, Mr.New could not be seen at first, but the next day a meeting was arranged.

Dr. Wilson went to the hotel where he lived, located a short distance from his business headquarters.

"No, Mr. New is not well today and cannot be seen," Dr. Wilson was told by a hotel employe. "Can you come back tomorrow?"

"No," said Dr. Wilson, "I cannot return. The distance up here is great and I am leaving soon."

"Who shall I say was here?"

"Jim Wilson from Wabash."

"Oh, he wants to see you," and the girl lost her indifferent air. "He has been waiting for you to come."

And the Wabash man spent two or three hours visiting with New, who told something of his own interesting story to Dr. Wilson and who inquired with interest about the people here that he remembered from his youth.

The matter of the gift to Wabash came up and Mr. New then said he had provided in his will for the statue, then started, to be finished and presented to his native city. At that time some $40,000 had been spent on it.

Mr. New had been at great pains to procure a sculptor of ability and reputation. With Dr. Wilson's consent to visit the latter and see the statue, Mr. New made an appointment.

"The sculptor is a man who has made many figures and groups for cities, parks, public squares and the like and his studio was full of statuary of one kind or another," said Dr. Wilson. "He showed me the small model from which he was making the Lincoln statue. It is a standing figure and Lincoln holds a scroll. Undoubtedly it is a fine piece of sculpture—fine enough for any city. It was a most generous thought that prompted the gift. Wabash should appreciate it."

Mr. New himself lived quite simply in a couple of hotel rooms.

"He was an omniverous reader," said Dr. Wilson, "and there were shelves and shelves of books, piled three or four rows deep. His reading was all along lines of philosophy—nothing of the lighter sort.

"And his two rooms—one of them especially—contained many family pictures, mementoes and keepsakes of one kind or another. He himself seemed to regard this room as kind of an inner sanctum."

And then Dr. Wilson recalled a most interesting incident of his earlier life which contained a very vivid contrast to his later successes.

"Years ago I was in Kansas City when Alex New was practicing law there. Incidentally, Mrs. Wilson and I were there on our honeymoon trip. I had occasion to look up New, was told he was in police court. He was engaged in some unimportant case, I took it, and probably was not very prosperous, as is the case sometimes with young professional men.

Abe Lincoln Statue at Wabash Provided in N. Y. Banker's Will

NEW YORK, Apr. 16.—(AP)—Completion of a statue of Abraham Lincoln at Wabash, Ind., is provided for in the will of Alexander New, banker and merchant, filed for probate today.

A paragraph in the will said the statue was being erected in the courtyard at Wabash as a memorial to New's father and mother and directed that any balance due at the time of his death be paid from the general estate.

The will also provided that each of his three sisters, Nellie N. Livingston and Janette N. Blumental, both of Marion, Ind., and Rosetta N. Myers of Pittsburgh, Pa., receive a life interest in trust funds amounting to $200,000 each and a share of one-third of his residuary estate.

New, who died April 5 in Tucson, Ariz., was the owner of the Mercantile Stores, Inc., and was connected with the Chase National bank. He also provided a life interest in $50,000 for Theodore New, a brother of San Francisco, and a quantity of stock for a nephew, Morris Blumenthal of Marion, Ind.

To Talk at Wabash



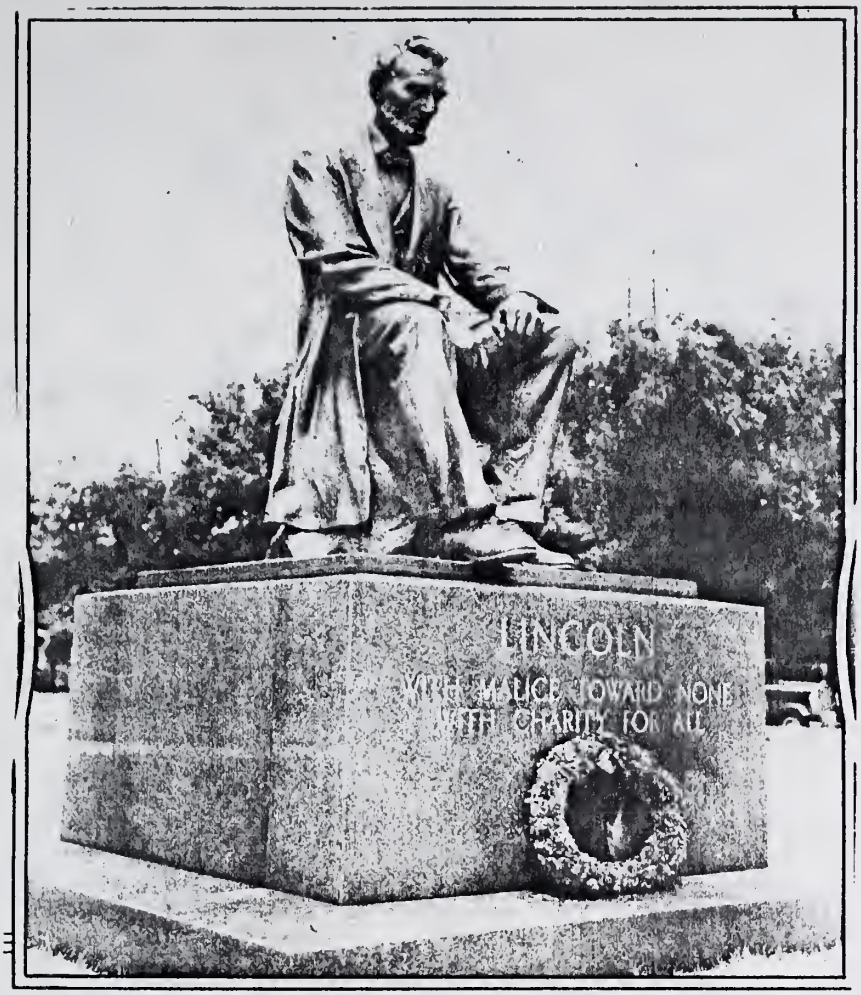
FRANK E. JAYNES

WABASH, May 26.—Frank E. Jaynes today accepted invitation of the program committee to deliver the main address at the unveiling of the Lincoln memorial statue here Monday afternoon.

At the same time it was announced that a majority of the communities over the county, which had first planned for Memorial day programs on Monday, are making arrangements to advance them either to Sunday or else have them Monday morning in order that residents of those communities can attend the services here during the afternoon.

Members of the Harrison class will help sponsor the luncheon at the Woman's clubhouse Monday noon for Mrs. Isaac Meyer of Pittsburgh; Mrs. Nellie Livingston and Mrs. David Blumenthal, both of Marion, sisters of Alexander New, who gave the monument to Wabash as a memorial to his parents.

The statue was placed today. It was veiled before being removed from the freight car and the covering will not be removed until the unveiling Monday afternoon. The program is scheduled to start at 2:30.



A NEW STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
Designed by Charles Keck of New York, a Gift of the Late Alexander New to the City of Wabash, Ind., in Memory of His Father and Mother.
(Dorr News Service.)

WABASH DEDICATES LINCOLN MEMORIAL

5,000 Watch Unveiling of Statue, a Gift of the Late Alexander New

(Special to The Journal-Gazette)

WABASH, May 30.—The culmination of a true Horatio Alger story came this afternoon when more than 5,000 persons watched Mrs. David Blumenthal of Marion, and Mrs. Isaac Myers of Pittsburgh, sever the cords which unveiled the large bronze Lincoln monument, a gift to the city of Wabash by their brother, the late Alexander New as a memorial to their parents.

Mr. New was born in Wabash and started out to learn the trade of harness making in a small one-room shop here. Poor health forced him to go west, where he took up the study of law. While a student in Kansas City a small store failed and he was named receiver. Instead of settling affairs of the business with a partial payment he reorganized the store and turned it into a profitable business. It became the first link of a national organization of which he became chairman of the board of directors. It made him many times a millionaire.

Statue Cost $75,000

He decided two years ago to give the statue to Wabash and employed a famous New York sculptor to design it. The sculptor spent his entire time on it and Mr. New had looked forward to being here for the dedication. He had made arrangements with Sen. Dwight Morrow to deliver the dedicatory address. Both Mr. New and Mr. Morrow died before the statue was completed. It cost $75,000 or just $400 less than the courthouse, at which place it is located.

The dedication services opened at

WABASH DEDICATES LINCOLN MEMORIAL

(Continued from Page One)

11 o'clock this morning when the American Legion decorated Mr. New's grave at the Jewish cemetery. E. E. Eikenbary, local attorney, was the speaker.

At noon a luncheon was served at the Woman's clubhouse for more than a score of distinguished visitors with Mrs. Blumenthal, Mrs. Myers and Mrs. Nellie Livingston, sisters of Mr. New, as the honored guests.

At 2 o'clock the main program was started. Frank Plummer served as master of ceremonies and introduced the visitors. Dr. Frank E. Jaynes gave the main address. Dr. James Wilson gave a biography of Mr. New and Col. Joseph M. Hartfield of New York, Mr. New's closest friend, told of incidents of his life in the business world.

Sculptor Gives Talk

Charles Keck, the sculptor, was called on for a few remarks and then Mayor Showalter accepted the gift in behalf of the city and county.

The inscription on the front of the base reads: "Lincoln. With malice toward none. With charity for all."

The statue is a seated figure of Lincoln with the left hand clinched and resting on the left knee, while the right hand resting on the right leg is open.

The entire program this afternoon was broadcast direct from the courthouse lawn over radio station WOWO at Fort Wayne.



Photo shows the acceptance of the Lincoln memorial by the city of Wabash from the relatives of the late Alexander New. In the photograph, reading from left to right are: Charles Keck, of New York, sculptor of the memorial; Mrs. Jeanette Blumenthall, of Marion, Indiana, sister of the late Mr. New; Mrs. Nelle Livingston, of Marion, and Mrs. Rossetta Meyers, of Pittsburgh, Pa., also sisters of Mr. New; and Mayor Homer T. Showalter of Wabash delivering the acceptance speech.



Photo shows view of portion of crowd attending the Memorial day dedication of the Lincoln monument, donated to the city of Wabash by the late Alexander New, former president of the Affiliated Dry Goods Corporation of New York City. Alexander New, born and raised in the city of Wabash, experienced his first business adventure here. Approximately five thousand people attended the dedicatory services.



World's Most Beautiful Lincoln Statue



SIX THOUSAND AT UNVEILING LINCOLN GIFT

Six thousand people bowed their heads in a moment of reverent silence Monday afternoon as Wabash accepted immediately after its unveiling the statue of Abraham Lincoln, gift of the late Alexander New, of New York, millionaire business man, attorney and lover of country.

It was a touching, impressive tribute as the vast crowd stood in the May sunshine and the silence spoke more eloquently than words, voicing, if that may be, a deep gratitude that was felt for a gift whose value is immeasurable— a value that will increase with the passing of the years.

Sculptor Present

And back in an obscure part of the speaker's stand was Charles Keck, the sculptor, whose natural reticense kept him in the back ground, but who was never-theless much impressed by the tribute. Crowds swarmed about him after the program was finished and congratulated him on the beauty of his work.

The large flag that covered the statue slowly began to move as Mrs. Jeanette New Blumenthal and Mrs. Netta New Myers pulled the cord that held it in place. The bronze figure, majestic, impressive emerged and it was then the crowd observed their moment of silence— o thing they would have done of their own accord if it had not been asked of them.

Not by Bread Alone

"Man cannot live by bread alone," said Frank E. Jaynes, speaker of the day in a fine address which was one of the chief features of the afternoon program.

"I heard an idle talker say—and we have too many idle talkers— that Mr. New had not done the right thing—that he should have given something with more material value.

"There is an old expression — 'man does not live by bread alone' that is freighted with truth. When we sell ourselves to the idea of material things and forget other things of greater value a evil day has come upon us. There are such things as faith, dreams, ideals that are of infinite value. Mr. New has given an imperishable gift— something that will last as long as the city will endure.

THE WABASH PLAIN DEALER AND TIMES-STAR

A Prophesy, a Promise

"Facing the sunrise, it is a prophecy and a promise so long as the people do not lose their dreams and their ideals. It will tell in silence the story of America as a place of opportunity. It will tell what such a life as that of Lincoln means.

"He was born in the barren hills of Kentucky. He had a great mother though his parentage was humble. But he had no heritage of greatness. He grew up from poverty, from ignorance and yet he found it possible to develop the highest power in his nature.

"He gained immortality by losing himself. He was not a genius, yet by a stroke of the pen and love in his heart, he struck the shackles that bound thousands of his fellow men.

"You young people who pass this memorial, stop and listen. You may

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

SIX THOUSAND

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

become all that is in your power to become."

Mr. Jaynes then dwelt on the Gettysburg address, emphasizing on the more important points of that great document.

He spoke of present conditions, referring to the "time of stress" through which we are passing.

"If Lincoln could know of our problems, he would smile at their insignificance in comparison to those he knew," said Mr. Jaynes.

"This is a time to show the metal of which we are made.

A New Dedication

"As we stand ready to receive this gift each of us should utter a prayer, a dedication—'I promise to dedicate ourselves a little more completely to the service of my country.'

"Let's dedicate ourselves to a new baptism of our father's loyalites—that government by the people, for the people and of the people shall not perish from the face of the earth.'

Presentation of the statue was then made and Mayor Homer Showalter responded, accepting it in behalf of the city. He said Wabash was grateful for the gift, which would mean much not only at present but in the years to come.

Wreaths were placed on the statue by the school children of Wabash and by the Tyroneans.

"America" was sung by the school children who were grouped on one of the courthouse porches.

F. W. Plummer was the presiding officer and made a brief talk, introducing the special guests which included the members of the New family and close friends of the late Mr. New.

In New Group

In the New group were: Mr. and Mrs. I. Myers, of Pittsburgh; Milton Isay, Pittsburgh; Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Blumenthal and Mrs. Neele Livingston of Marion; Mrs. Charles New, Mrs. H. N. Goodman, Mr. and Mrs. Markham Levy, all of Louisville, Ky.; Colonel Joseph M. Hartif Hartfield, attorney and close personal friend of Mr. New; William J. Wollman of New York, attorney with whom Mr. New was associated many years and close personal friend; John W. Lewis and Miss Larrie Lewis, of Cincinnati, the former president of the Mercantile Stores company, the organization of which Mr. New was president for many years.

The crowd sought every available space to see and hear the exercise, windows and verandas being filled as well as the entire courthouse lawn. North Wabash and hill streets were roped off and traffic was looked after by four state patrolmen together with the local police.

The city was gay with flags and bunting.

The speaker's stand was erected just back of the memorial and speakers faced the east.

The entire program was broadcast from WOWO, Fort Wayne and the reception was fine, radio audiences reported.

On Platform

Seated on the speaker's platform were:

Gold Star mothers: Mrs. Neil Lumaree, Mrs. Cassady, Mrs. John McGath, Mrs. B. E. Wairod and Mrs. Lydia Harvey.

Civil War veterans: John Niccum, Isaac Needham, William Sommers, Taylor Bailey, W. H. Bent, T. C. McClure, William Baker, John Enyeart, Peru; Jonah Heacock, Roann; August Geist, Urbana; George Rhamy, Urbana; and Henry Barber, Fairmount.

The members of the New family, relatives and special guests: John W. Lewis, Jr., of Cincinnati and president of the United Merchantile Exchange; Mrs. Nelle Livingston, Marion; I. Myers, Pittsburgh; Milton Isay, Pittsburgh; Rosetta New Myers, Pittsburgh; Jeanette Blumenthal, D. H. Blumenthal, Marion; Rabbi and Mrs. S. H. Markowitz, Fort Wayne; Mrs. Harriet New Goodman, Louisville; Mrs. Charles New Louisville; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Levi, Louisville.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hunter, Carl Burkandt, chief of police, Peru; Joe Conrad, R. C. Howard, Dr. J. E. Yearling, Peru; Hal C. Phelps, Peru; Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Showaiter, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Showalter, Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Neighbours, Mrs. Henry Barber, Fairmount; Mrs. George Lumaree, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henley, Indianapolis; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dick, Huntington; Mrs. James Wilson.

Charles Keck, of New York City, sculptor of statue and president of the National Sculptor's society; Colonel Joseph M. Hartfield, New York; William J. Wollman, New York; Miss Larrie Lewis, Cincinnati.

Mrs. Marian Gardner, North Manchester; Mrs. Frank Reed, Indianapolis; Mrs. Stewart Cowglil, Mrs. H. C. Pettit, E. H. Ford, Hugh R. Stephenson of the Banker's Trust in New York City; William Arnold, Pittsburgh; Charles Conner Jr., Rev. and Mrs. W. Earl Pittinger; Wilbur McNamee, Mrs. Mary Davis, Millsburg, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Stephenson, John Michos, Marion; Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Jaynes; and Frank Plummer, master of ceremonies.

Always Lived in Wabash

"Alexander New always lived in Wabash," said William J. Wollman, prominent attorney of New York with whom Mr. New had been associated in Kansas City and New York.

The statement seemed contradictory, especially to many Wabash people who had never seen the man who left here in early boyhood to attain great success in a material way and in later life decided to present the statue of Lincoln to Wabash as a memorial to his father and mother, Isaac and Henrietta New.

"I mean that he always thought of Wabash as home," continued Mr. Wollman. "When I came to this city this morning I said to myself: 'So this is really Wabash.'

"I had heard about it so often from Mr. New. He talked of it many, many times, but I never happened to have been here before. Yes, he always lived in Wabash."

Asked whether he thought Mr. New ever intended to return here in case he retired from active work, Mr. Wollman expressed the opinion that he did not.

Big Joy in Job

"Judge New — he was always known as Judge New through having served on the bench in Kansas City for a brief period—was a tremendously hard worker. His business was his life. He was a brilliant man and had a tremendous joy in his job. He was most generous—with his family and with others whom he knew and liked."

Colonel Joseph M. Hartfield, of New York, closely associated with Mr. New and now attorney for the New estate, spoke of Alexander New's ability as a business organizer.

Has 23 Stores

"He built up an organization that does about a fifty million dollar business annually," said Col. Hartfield. "It is known as the Merchantile Stores company, and has 23 department stores in America.

"The H. B. Claflin stores had financial difficulties and Mr. New went from Kansas City to New York to reorganize them. That was in 1914. In 1914 he became president and served in that capacity until about six months before his death when ill health forced him to resign.

He built up a powerful organization, known throughout the country to department store heads."

In New's Office

Irving Levy, of New York, was another close associate of Mr. New

Mr. Levy was in Mr. New's office for five years previous to going into business for himself.

He, too, knew the former Wabash man as a great worker and knew of his keen interest in the memorial which he planned over a long period before the commission was finally given to Charles Keck.

"After that he watched its progress closely and gave it much thought and attention," said Mr. Levy.

Advertise today—Results tomorrow

The Lantern

By Katherine Ramsey

Yesterday was kind of a home coming for Wabash, with the great gift of the Lincoln memorial the magnet that drew them all. They were all glad to come back, happy for the marvellous gift of the late Alexander New.

In the crowd were many personages, many who had been attracted by the occasion, some who had been associates of Mr. New in the business world in which he was such an outstanding success . . . some who were his close friends and intimates.

There were hundreds that had no claim to recognition of any sort. There were still others who were brought here by a friendship or acquaintanceship with the New family.

. . . Out of it all came to Wabash a great gift, a fine work of art, something that will be an inspiration to those to come.

As the speaker, Frank E. Jaynes said . . . "You young people—as you pass this statue each day, pause and listen . . . . and know that in America any man may became all that is in his power to become.

"The man to whom this day we dedicate this memorial had no heritage to greatness, no throb of genius . . . . he came from the hills of Kentucky, climbed up from ignorance, from poverty to his lordly place in the sun. He found it possible to make a name for himself that shall live as long as America lives."

"I can make a statue, but I can't make a speech," said Charles Keck, New York sculptor who did the Lincoln statue. It must have been a moment of very great pride and of deep satisfaction when he saw unveiled the beautiful work of art on which he spent three or four years.

But he was very retiring and more than anything else he feared he would be obliged to make a speech. As the huge flag was slowly pulled from the impressive and majestic figure of Lincoln, the crowd seemed caught by its sheer beauty as a work of art and it was a moment or two before the silence was even broken by applause.

Mr. Keck appreciated the tribute, seemed deeply pleased and happy.

As a matter of fact—and facts about himself were difficult to elicit from the sculptor—he was a pupil of St. Gaudens for five years, and was the winner of the Prix de Rome, a gift presented by the American Academy in Rome. It is a competitive prize with five eminent sculptors acting at the awarding made each year.

Mr. Keck, himself won the prize a number of years ago, and is now one of the five judges.

He is leaving here for Kansas City where he has a group of eight men executing a frieze 280 feet long and 8 fect high on the Nelson Atkins museum, Kansas City, Missouri.

It depicts in bas-relief the development of the American West.

Accompanying Mr. Keck was Robert McKnight, one of the men working on the frieze.

Mr. McKnight is a young sculptor who won the Prix de Rome this year and will be in Rome to begin work Oct. 1 to extend over a three year period. His home is in Ohio. Mr. McKnight has also been working under Mr. Keck in the latter's New York studio.

Asked for an opinion of the Lincoln statue here, Mr. McKnight said he "thought it was probably the best Lincoln that had been done."

"There are many," he said, "but I believe this is one of the finest, if not the best.

"It has much value. The characterization is outstanding. He was a thoughtful man and the attitude of meditation is fine. It is typical of Lincoln. Wabash is fortunate in possessing it."

Mr. McKnight said that another well known work of Mr. Keck is the equestrian statue of Stonewall Jackson which is at the University of Virginia . . . known as "one of the best equestrian statues in the United States," he said.

The sculptor was entertained at the home of E. H. Ford whom he had known before, both on the occasion of a visit to New York by Mr. Ford and a former visit of the scultpor to Wabash.

Wabash (Ind) Plain Dealer & Times Star
5/31/32

Tribute Paid At The Grave Of Alex New

5/31/32

Wabash (Ind.) Plain Dealer / Times Star

A tribute and service especially appreciated only by the relatives and very close friends of Alexander New was the feature of the morning Memorial Day service conducted Monday at the grave of Mr. New, by Edward E. Eikenbary.

A short ceremony was held by the Legion firing squad, prior to the tribute in which they honored those of Jewish blood who gave their lives in the World war.

Only members of the New family, very close business associates, a few close Wabash friends, several members of the Legion firing squad attended the service, yet it was one of the most fitting and impressive of the entire day. It stood as a simple eulogy to the memory of Mr. New and his race. Follows the tribute paid by Eikenbary:

"The place whereon thou standeth is holy ground. Consecrated, dedicated and hallowed according to the ancient manner and custom of Israel, a custom which it obtained from God, the Supreme ruler of all mankind. A plot of majestic beauty, where the faithful followers of the Divine Light find temporary rest, until the Master shall call them again from peaceful slumber to a nobler, grander service in His Kingdom of purity and peace.

"Therefore; assembled as we are mid scenes so sacred and hallowed it is not fitting that we speak at random, and thereby desecrate this holy place, and let it be so, may this address be from manuscript instead.

"The occasion, my friends, which calls us together is that we may honor ourselves in the doing of a simple duty which we owe to an alien race, especially its illustrious dead, whose pathway through life was cast among us, and from this association we learned to know their smile was as gentle as the morning dew, and their counsel was ever a benediction of peace and good will.

"The especial objects of our devotion are no longer with us, but have been gathered to their eternal home and their soul is far beyond our reach and comprehension, but, still the memory of their life lingers upon us and clings to our every thought like the perfume clings to the rose, or, like the recollection of a pleasant dream, which leaves a tinge of sadness and regret with its passing.

"Alex New was a worthy son of a noble race, whose ancient ancestry was divinely led. A people, that during the course of his earthly pilgrimage possessed neither homeland, nation or flag. Yet, withal, they were strengthened and sustained by a divine assurance of ultimate dominion over all lands and all races. And, while thus scattered abroad over the face of the entire earth, they have steadfastly preserved their integrity and have maintained their aloofness from intermingling with alien bloods, and today, amid the stress and distress of earth's turmoil, this people, wherever found, in whatever enterprise engaged, is still able to humbly call upon God, in perfect faith [illegible] with David

"'The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; He leadeth me beside still waters; He restoreth my soul; He guideth me in the path of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, tho' I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; Thy rod and Thy staff, O Lord, they will comfort me. Thou preparest a table for me in the sight of my adversaries; Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup of joy runneth over. Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

"And we, whose blessed privilege it was to have known Alex New, and his parents, in the morning hours of his life, surely cannot fail to discern the source from whence came his nobility of character; his sterling integrity; his tender devotion to his parents. For it was upon their knee that he was taught to honor Thy Father and Thy Mother, that his days might not only be many, but that his ways should always be ways of peace.

"Therefore, bred, nurtured and thus so wisely guided, can it be wondered that in the twilight hours of his day, when the shadows of the great tomorrow were beginning to fall across his pathway, and to encircle his foot-steps, that his thoughts should turn aside from the busy turmoil of life's perplexing scenes and give visible form to that sacred impulse of the soul which found audible expression on Calvary, as: Son, behold Thy Mother. And from that soul impulse he was led to know, appreciate and perform a son's true duty and debt of gratitude unto the Mother whose tender loving care had made of him all that he was or ever had hoped to be.

"And again with equal fitness we see his thoughts turning back to that other great son of a saintly Mother, not of Israel, but of his adopted [illegible] the beauty and simplicity of whose soul was, in his opinion, the only earthly personage whose life and memory was best calculated to typify and memorialize the true spirit and character of that Father and Mother of his, in whose honor he has given not alone a splendid memorial in bronze and granite, but far above, and more important than that cast in such elements, the consolation and sincere pride which ever attends a son's devotion to divine precepts and parental prayers.

"And from this magnificent contribution to the city of his youth, may we gather inspiration not only to know, but also to act, with the assurance that a nation of a people, which soon forgets the valor and heroism of its defenders, or the purity, sweetness and virtue of its Mothers, is a nation, or a people, already far advanced in decay.

"And to those among us, who did not know Alex New in life, may we venture to suggest that you lose no opportunity to gain at least an echo of his real worth. And in doing so you will not fail to discover that there were rooms in his soul never explored, and depths that were never sounded and treasures which a king might well wish to hold in fee.

"From a reference to this stone, which marks the place where life's journey ended, we observe that little more than one year ago his sun went down to rise no more on his day. But while he is no longer visibly present among us, there is an ever abiding consolation belonging to 'All you who mourn the loss of loved ones, and, at this hour, remember the goodness, the hope and sweet companionship that has passed away with them, give ear to the word of comfort spoken to you in the name of your God. Only the body has died and has been laid in the dust. The spirit lives and will live on forever in the land of [illegible] disturbed peace and perfect happiness. But in this life, also, the loved ones continue in the remembrance of those to whom they were precious. Every act of goodness they performed, every true and beautiful word they spoke, is treasured up and becomes an incentive to action by which the living honor the dead.

"'And when you ask in your grief; Where shall come my help and my comfort? then, in the strength of faith, answer with the Psalmist: 'My help cometh from God,' who will not forsake me, nor leave me in my grief. Upon Him I cast my burden and He will grant the strength according to the days He has appointed to me. All souls are His, and no power can take them out of His hands. Come, then, and in the midst of sympathizing fellow-worshipers, rise, and hallow the name of God.'

"His earthly remains have been tenderly deposited in the soil whereon we stand, and from his unpolluted dust, may there blossom forth the lily, the ivy and the sweet forget-me-not.

"The lily, typifying the purity and virtue of his mother.

"The ivy, emblematic of the constant care and supervision of his father;

"The sweet forget-me-not, representing the ever enduring love on the part of those who knew him in life.

"May peace, and the divine benediction of his Master, rest, and abide with him forever."

Sister Writes Biography Of Statue Donor

Following is a biography of Alexander New, written by his sister, Mrs. Nelle Livingston. It was to have been read at the exrcises yesterday by Dr. James E. Wilson, long a friend of the late Mr. New and his family, but owing to slight illness, Dr. Wilson was unable to appear on the speaker's stand, and the biography was read by F. W. Plummer, who presided.

"Associated with the early history and the development of Wabash, we find the names of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac New. Isaac New, a native of Bavaria, Germany, migrated to New York in his early youth, crossing the Atlantic ocean in a sail boat at the time when 90 days were required to make the voyage. Mrs. New also of Bavaria, Germany, some years later, crossed to New York in a sail boat when the time of sailing was reduced to 60 days.

"Mr. and Mrs. New were married in New York City in 1858 and in the year 1860 moved to Atlanta, Georgia. After a short period of residence in Atlanta they came to Wabash county in 1861. Mr. and Mrs. New reared a family of nine children, all, except the first born, natives of Wabash county. One son, three daughters, nine grand-children and five great-grand-children survive. Isaac New, upon coming to Wabash, entered into the early commercial life of the town and by his industry and integrity coupled with his enterprise and ability, with time, established the department store of I. New & Son on Canal street, which developed into one of the finest stores in northern Indiana.

Student of History

"Isaac New was known as a man possessing a fine mind and as a great student of history. Following the death of Mr. New, the management of the I. New & Son store was ably carried on by the son, Henry New, until the year 1902, when he liquidated the business and associated himself with the Jones Store company of Kansas City, Missouri.

"Henry New, in Wabash, was active in the promotion of public improvements in Wabash county, and in the location of new industries in the town. Death cut short his years of business activity in Kansas City. Mrs. Isaac New, ever devoted ot her family, always stood ready to administer to the sick, and in her love for humanity to help those in need in her community. Mr. and Mrs. New were known by their friends far and near, for their gracious hospitality in their home.

Read Law Here

"Alexander New, son of Isaac and Henrietta Gallinger New, was born in Wabash county, Indiana, June 2, 1861. While a student in the Wabash high school, Alexander New, conscious of his love for the profession of law, after school hours, read law in the office of Cowgill, Shively & Cowgill, and from books borrowed from the library of Judge John U. Pettit.

"Following his graduation, A. B. from Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pennsylvania in 1886, he attended law school in Madison, Wisconsin, for a period of one year, and read law in the office of McDonald, Butler & Snow, in Indianapolis. He was admitted to the Bar of Indiana, in 1887 and to the Bar of Jackson county, Missouri, in 1888. His admission to the Bar of Jackson county, Missouri, admitted him to practice law

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

Wabash Plain Dealer and Times Star

in all courts of the state of Missouri.

"He began his practice of law in Kansas City in the office of Henry Wollman, then a promising practicing attorney of that city, now a well known attorney in New York City. Subsequently he became association in the practice of law in the firm of New & Palmer, followed by a partnership with Judge J. V. Karnes, a pioneer lawyer of much prominence in Kansas City, Lewis Krauthoff, later of New York City and Edward Krauthoff. With the above partnership dissolved, Alexander New, on January 1, 1914, organized the firm of New, Miller, Comack & Winger, occupying an entire floor in the Gloyd building, in Kansas City.

Became Corporation Lawyer

"Alexander New became recognized as one of Kansas City's most prominent residents, and as a corporation lawyer, a leader of the Jackson county and Missouri bar, representing such firms as Cudahy Packing company, Western Union Telegraph company, Mutual Life Insurance company of New York, Equitable Life Assurance society and Penn Mutual Life Insurance company. Although never associated in partnership with Frank Haggerman, the able and very prominent attorney at Kansas City, Mr. New often referred to his friendship and esteem for Mr. Haggerman and of the incentive that he was in his professional life.

"Early in the year 1914, Alexander New was called to New York City to become president of the Mercantile Stores company. In a February number of 1914 New York Times magazine he was referred to as an attorney, a business organizer, an optimist and a lover of his country with unbounded faith in our United States of America. During the years of Mr. New's presidency of Mercantile Stores company, the organization grew to be one of the most powerful mercantile organizations in the country.

Chairman of Board

"He served as president of this organization from 1914 until shortly before his death, when, because of ill health, he tendered his resignation, and office of chairman of the board of directors was created for him. By his associates of Mercantile Stores company, he was considered a wise counsellor and loyal friend. Mr. New was much interested in the civic and business life of both New York and Kansas City and was generous in his contributions to both cities.

"In New York City, besdies his association with Mercantile Stores company, Mr. New was a member of the advisory board of the Metropolitan Branch of the Chase National bank, and a director of the American Surety company. His death occurred in Tucson, Arizona, on April 5, 1931, while there in search of health, and his ashes rest on the family lot in the cemetery

Mr. New died before the monument was completed. Frederick Meserve completed the arrangements for the monument as requested by Mr. New prior to his decease, and as requested in the will of Mr. New.

The life of Alexander New is an epic of ambitious achievement.

What They Said

Ed Bridges (St. Louis): It's a fine thing for Wabash to have had a benefactor like Alexander New. I enjoyed the entire program a great deal.

Henry Bradley (Waltz Township): The statue will be appreciated as much by the people of the county as those of Wabash. Mr. Jaynes' talk was very fine.

Mrs. Dorwin Pearson: My young daughter has been quite impressed by the unveiling ceremony. This will be a day she'll probably always remember.

Mrs. Rebecca Hoover: The committee in charge of these services has put a great deal of time into their program, and everything seemed quite impressive.

Robert Mitten: We should have an unveiling here every day—it brings lots of people and business to town.

Mrs. W. C. Wakefield: The statue is a beautiful piece of work, and one of which we may well be proud.

Otto Elliott: The entire dedication services seemed most worthwhile and we certainly enjoyed them.

Miss Henrietta Snow: We were very glad to be back in Wabash on such a gala day. The gift statue seems to me one of the nicest I've ever seen.

Rev C. E. Lamale: There is a simple sadness and kindliness caught in the expression of Lincoln in the statue, which was quite typical of him. It is a fine gift.

Mrs. James Davis: My children were quite anxious to see the statue. It will mean a great deal to them in later years.

John Campbell (Marion): Wabash is very fortunate to have such an expensive and beautiful work of art There are few small towns honored with gifts of this nature.

Mrs. Robert Bailey: This gift will stand forever and will be appreciated not only by us and our children, but by future generations. A gift of money would be scattered and forgotten in a short while.

Oliver Showalter: Bronze makes one of the finest materials for a work of art of this nature. I've secured a number of fine photographs of the statue.

Carey Bowman (Roann): People from all over the county gathered here yesterday for the dedication services, and they were well worth their time.

N. G. Hunter: I was very impressed by the beauty of the statue. Mr. New did wisely in choosing his gift and showed forethought.

Mary Whitmore: Lots of people who listened on the radio were able to hear better than we who were right down at the services. The statue was even more impressive than I had imagined.

Hugh Enyeart (Band): The entire program Monday was very impressive to me. The singing of those school children was fine. The talks were very fitting and the Wabash Community band played the program like professionals.

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William Jay (Vernon St., Wabash)—We stand for Don Nixon at our house. We need about 50 more men in Wabash like him. I believe that things would move along much better.

Wilmot Smith (Wabash)—There is no truth in the report that I was married recently. In addition to the rumor being baseless it proves that there are always a number of people in Wabash who from force of habit are more concerned about other people's personal affairs than their own.

Frank Wimer (Cubberly Tobacco company)—Within a short time I would guess that all cigarettes will be down to a dime.

Clarence Vandegrift (At service yesterday at New grave) —Mr. Eikenbary should have been a minister rather than a lawyer.

William J. Wollan (New York, close of Alexander New)—This memorial will mean more to Wabash in five years than it means now—as time goes on people will realize its value even more.

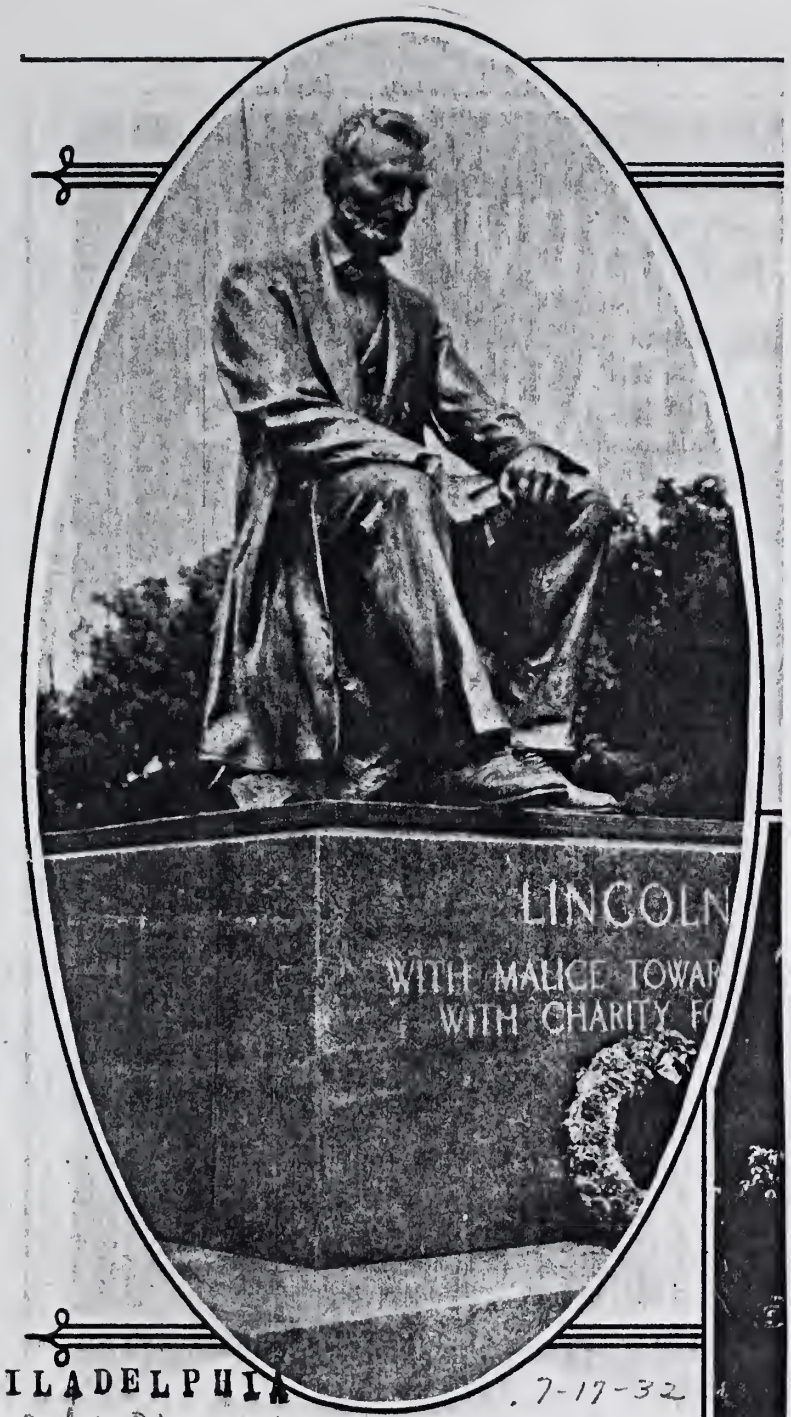
Josephine Alexander (Wabash) — I think that passing that Lincoln statue will make each day a little easier—a beautiful work of art.

Wabash County—An imposing bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, presented to Wabash by the late Alexander New of New York, a native of Wabash, was dedicated Monday, May 30, with impressive ceremonies on the courthouse lawn at Wabash. Several thousand Wabash citizens and visitors witnessed the event. The monument, depicting Lincoln seated, is the work of the New York sculptor, Charles Keck, and was erected as a memorial to Mr. New's father and mother, Isaac and Henrietta New. Engraved on its granite base is the inscription, "With malice toward none, with charity for all."

Following a luncheon at the Wabash Woman's Club, at which the sisters of Mr. New were guests, the memorial program was held in the afternoon with F. W. Plummer presiding. The invocation was given by Rabbi Samuel Markovitz of Fort Wayne, and the dedicatory address by the Reverend Frank E. Jaynes of Wabash. Joseph M. Hartfield of New York, a business associate of the donor, also spoke. The statute was unveiled by Mrs. Davis Blumenthal and Mrs. Isaac Myers, sisters of Mr. New, and was accepted on behalf of Wabash by Mayor Homer Showalter.



A NEW STATUE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,
Designed by Charles Keck of New York, a Gift of the Late Alexander New to the City of Wabash, Ind., in Memory of His Father and Mother.
(Dorr News Service.)



PHILADELPHIA Ledger 7-17-32

UNVEIL NEW LINCOLN

This figure, done by Charles Keck, New York sculptor, was recently unveiled on the Court House grounds at Wabash, Ind. The statue was presented to Wabash by the late Alexander New.



PH

E. Quiver 7-17-32

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Rec'd

Milestones of American Genius



Memorial to the Great Emancipator, at Wabash, Ind.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

NO other American is so deeply revered as Abraham Lincoln and that reverence finds symbolic expression in scores of monuments to his memory throughout the land. The impress of his personality is deeply graven on the heart of the nation The sobriquets under which he is still known to all of America—Honest Abe, The Rail Splitter, the Great Emancipator—are a measure of the love which informs that reverence.

Abe Lincoln was humbly born at Hodgenville, Kentucky, in 1809—on February 12, which is now a national holiday in commemoration of that event In spite of poverty and misfortune, he educated himself for the law, studying avidly what books he could borrow After years of grubbing at ill-paid jobs as store clerk, rail splitter and handyman, he qualified for the bar

He remained obscure for a long time Nationwide prominence came to him, however, through his debates with the gifted and cultured Stephen Douglas on the slavery question. The country discovered Lincoln and in a period of extreme sectional tensions, elected him President of the United States in 1861.

The perilous Civil War years followed, lighted by Lincoln's wisdom and kindliness while the nation sought "a new birth of freedom," in the words of the immortal Gettysburg address. He was preparing for the task of reconstruction when destiny intervened. Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, only four days after the cessation of hostilities.

His martyrdom put an edge of pathos to his fame Outstanding poets, sculptors and architects have given their finest talents to enshrining his memory in words and in stone.

The best known of these tokens are at Springfield, Illinois, where Lincoln is buried, and at Washington, D C., in the magnificent Lincoln Memorial. The recent monument erected at Wabash, Indiana, in 1932, (shown above) is proof that the present generation is not remiss in doing honor to the Rail Splitter.

(Copyrighted by Memorial Extension Commission.)

The Daily Intelligencer
Doylestown Pa 12-23-35

Abraham Lincoln

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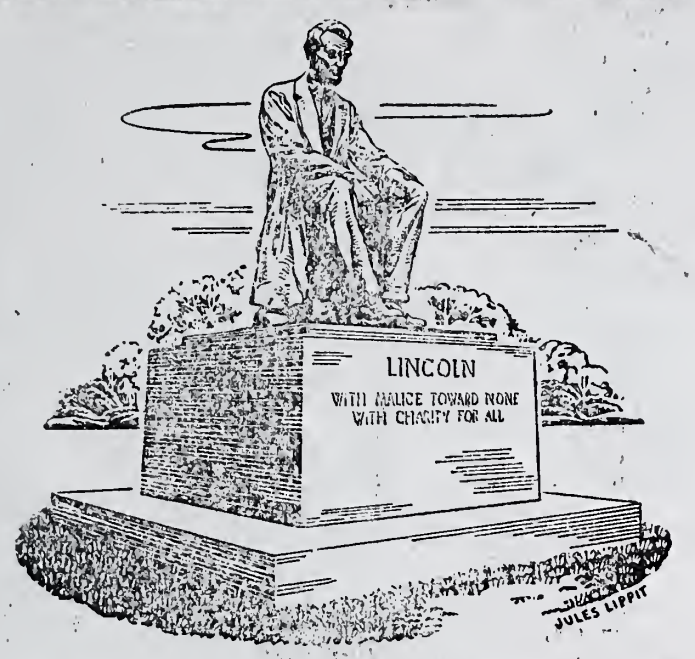
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LOUDONVILLE, OHIO TIMES
Friday, February 7, 1936

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Milestones of American Genius



Memorial to the Great Emancipator, at Wabash, Ind.

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The perilous Civil War years followed, lighted by Lincoln's wisdom and kindliness while the nation sought "a new birth of freedom," in the words of the immortal Gettysburg address. He was preparing for the task of reconstruction when destiny intervened. Lincoln was assassinated on April 14, 1865, only four days after the cessation of hostilities.

His martyrdom put an edge of pathos to his fame Outstanding poets, sculptors and architects have given their finest talents to enshrining his memory in words and in stone.

The best known of these tokens are at Springfield, Illinois, where Lincoln is buried, and at Washington, D C., in the magnificent Lincoln Memorial. The recent monument erected at Wabash, Indiana, in 1932, (shown above) is proof that the present generation is not remiss in doing honor to the Rail Splitter.

(Copyrighted by Memorial Extension Commission.)

WAUSAU, WIS. PILOT
Thursday, February 6, 19..

167

Milestones of American Genius



Memorial to the Great Emancipator, at Wabash, Ind.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

NO other American is so deeply revered as Abraham Lincoln and that reverence finds symbolic expression in scores of monuments to his memory throughout the land. The impress of his personality is deeply graven on the heart of the nation. The sobriquets under which he is still known to all of America—Honest Abe, The Rail Splitter, the Great Emancipator—are a measure of the love which informs that reverence.

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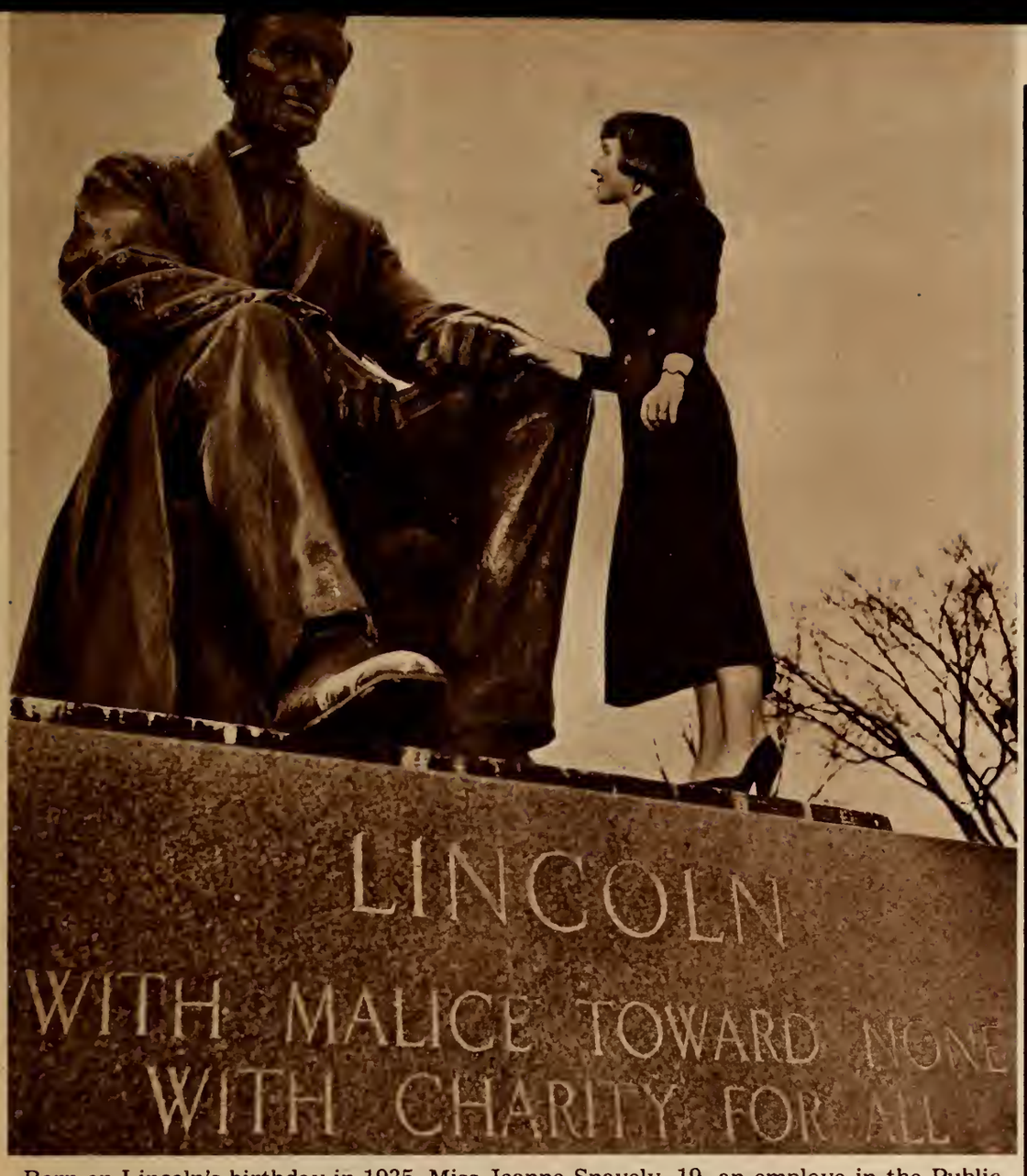
(Copyrighted by Memorial Extension Commission.)

THE INDIANAPOLIS SUN

252. SUNDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 12, 1939.



"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL" is the inscription on the base of this statue of Abraham Lincoln in Wabash, executed in 1932 by Charles Keck. (Paul E. Lamale



Born on Lincoln's birthday in 1935, Miss Jeanne Snavely, 19, an employe in the Public Service Co., poses on his statue at the northeast corner of our courthouse square.

was a bustling center in the days of the Erie Canal.

This Is My Town

WABASH

By John Mossman, City Engineer
(As told to Ken Weaver, News-Sentinel State Editor)

AS YOU COME into our town from the south through the wide cut in the bluff on State Road 15, you get a panoramic view of stately old buildings amidst narrow, hilly streets nestled in a picturesque valley below.

Rich with tales of long ago, Wabash is one of the historic towns in our state. It had its beginning with rural settlers, then canal workers and then the railroaders.



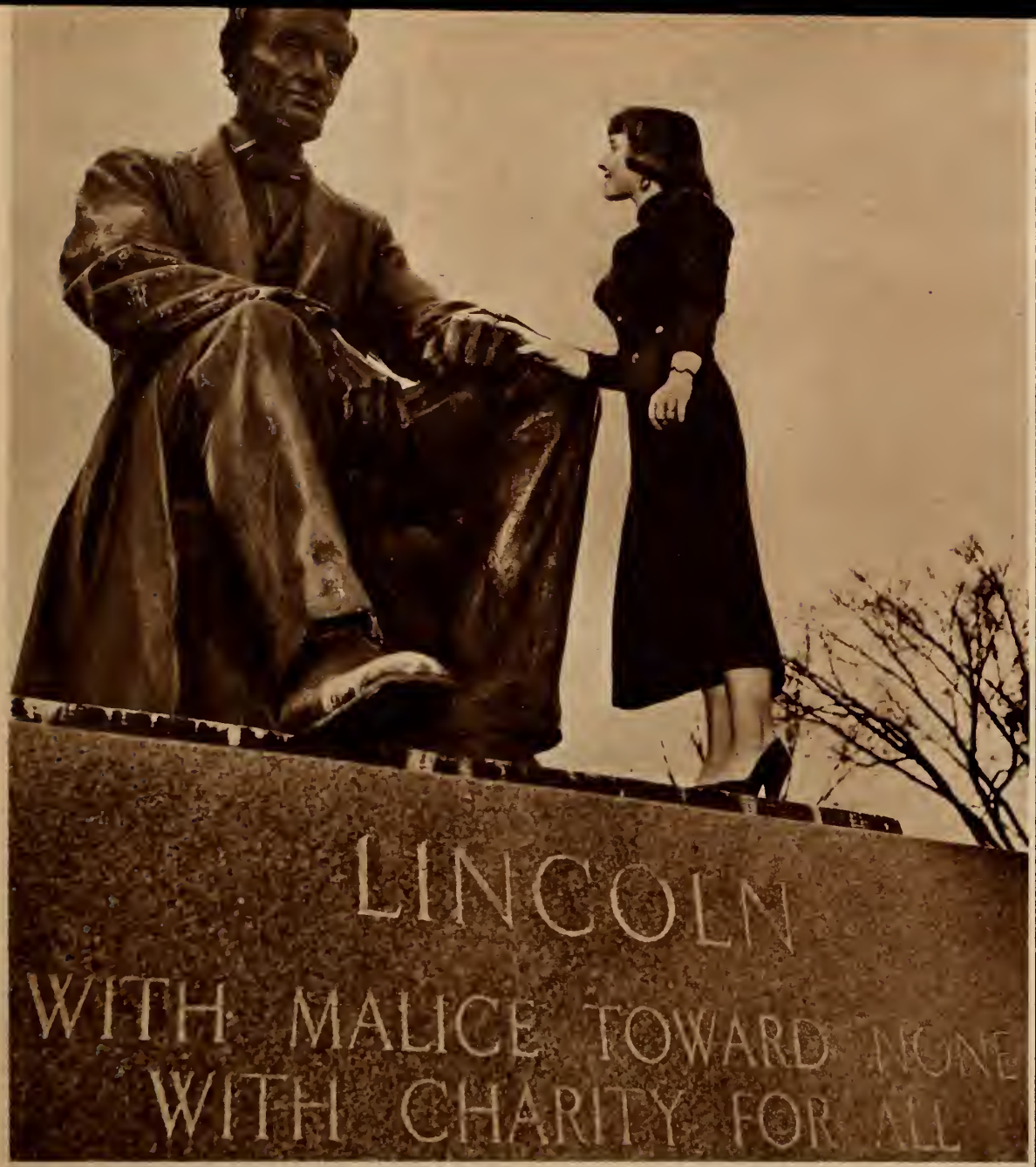
John Mossman, city engineer since May 1, 1952, was appointed to his post by Mayor James Smallwood.

Located on the scenic Wabash River, our town is on the main line from Detroit to St. Louis of the Big Four and Wabash Railroad. U.S. 24, and State Roads 15 and 13 traverse our town. With a population of 10,600, we have 23 churches, five public elementary schools, one junior high school, one high school and one parochial school. We form an industrial and distributing center.

Our town government is made up of the mayor—James Smallwood, 68, in the third year of his third term (an auctioneer all his life, he also served as mayor from 1934-42), the seven-member city council, the city clerk, the city engineer and the board of public affairs.

The police department consists of the chief and 18 members, while the fire department is made up of the chief and 15 members. Our industries produce water meters, machine products, radio and television cabinets, patterns, brass works, aluminum, display cases, rock wool products, coils, Christmas and other holiday decorations, war materials, rubber goods, paperboard and others.

(Photos by Carl Hartup, News-Sentinel Staff Photographer)



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Lincoln Statue Placing Described

A recent Plain Dealer article regarding the Lincoln statue at the courthouse prompted Rotary Club President George Dingledy to provide a copy of the following letter sent to the club by Homer T. Showalter on April 21, 1967, when Lincoln scholar Dr. Gerald McMurty addressed the club:

"It was February or March of 1932 that I was asked to meet a group at the courthouse regarding the erection of a statue of Abraham Lincoln on the courthouse lawn. There I met Charles Keck a prominent sculptor from New Rochelle, N.Y., and a Mr. Benisch, who had the contract of furnishing the granite used as a base for the memorial.

"The ladies present were the sisters of Alexander New, a Wabash boy who went to the big city and became an attorney. He made good in a big way and planned to honor his father and mother by the erection of a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln. I remember that Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Eva Pettit and several others in the group that met that day.

"The proposed monument by blue print and picture was shown to the group and the details were disclosed. A sum of $75,000.00 had been allotted by Mr. New as the cost of the entire project, but two years of depression compelled canceling of a portion of the overall project. Mr. Benisch of the monument firm from New York City told me the entire cost would be $35,000.

"I was in the monument business at the time as well as being in the mayor's office, and I asked who was going to set the monument in place. He told me that a Chicago firm had agreed to do the job for $250.00. I asked about the weight of the heaviest pieces of stone that was to be used, and discovered that four of the pieces weighed four tons each and the smaller pieces weighed three tons, with the bronze statue at 1600 pounds. I immediately put in a bid of $245 and got the job of placing the statue.

"For $25 we got Fred Hoffman, a local cement man to put in the concrete foundation on the solid rock. By the middle of May, 1932, the pieces of granite and the bronze statue arrived in a box car on the Wabash Railroad. I got hold of Ollie Brown, who had set many monuments for me for years, and with eight or nine men, we pooled our resources on rollers, oak plank and blocks, and three days later had the monument as you see it now in its permanent position on the corner of the courthouse lawn. We also had the advice and assistance of some 300 onlookers to help with the work.

"As we set the four basepieces in place, Emanuel Gackenheimer, father of the boys Paul and Bob, asked if he might place a bucket of picture papers, pictures, articles in that space under the top pieces of stone. I readily agreed, and he came with his sealed container, as did several other people. These containers were carefully placed in that open space, the contents of course, designed for people to read and look at in a thousand years.

"Great plans were made for the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. Dr. Frank Jaynes, beloved pastor of the Christian Church, made the address. The crowd was enormous, the New sisters were there as well as Charles Keck. As the mayor, I accepted the monument in behalf of the city. The date was May 30, 1932.

"At the time, we didn't know that we were the recipients of the finest Lincoln statue that had ever been produced. Mr. Keck told me that he had visited all the Lincolns and decided that this would be a composite of all the Lincoln monuments in the country."

Sahara's Caravans

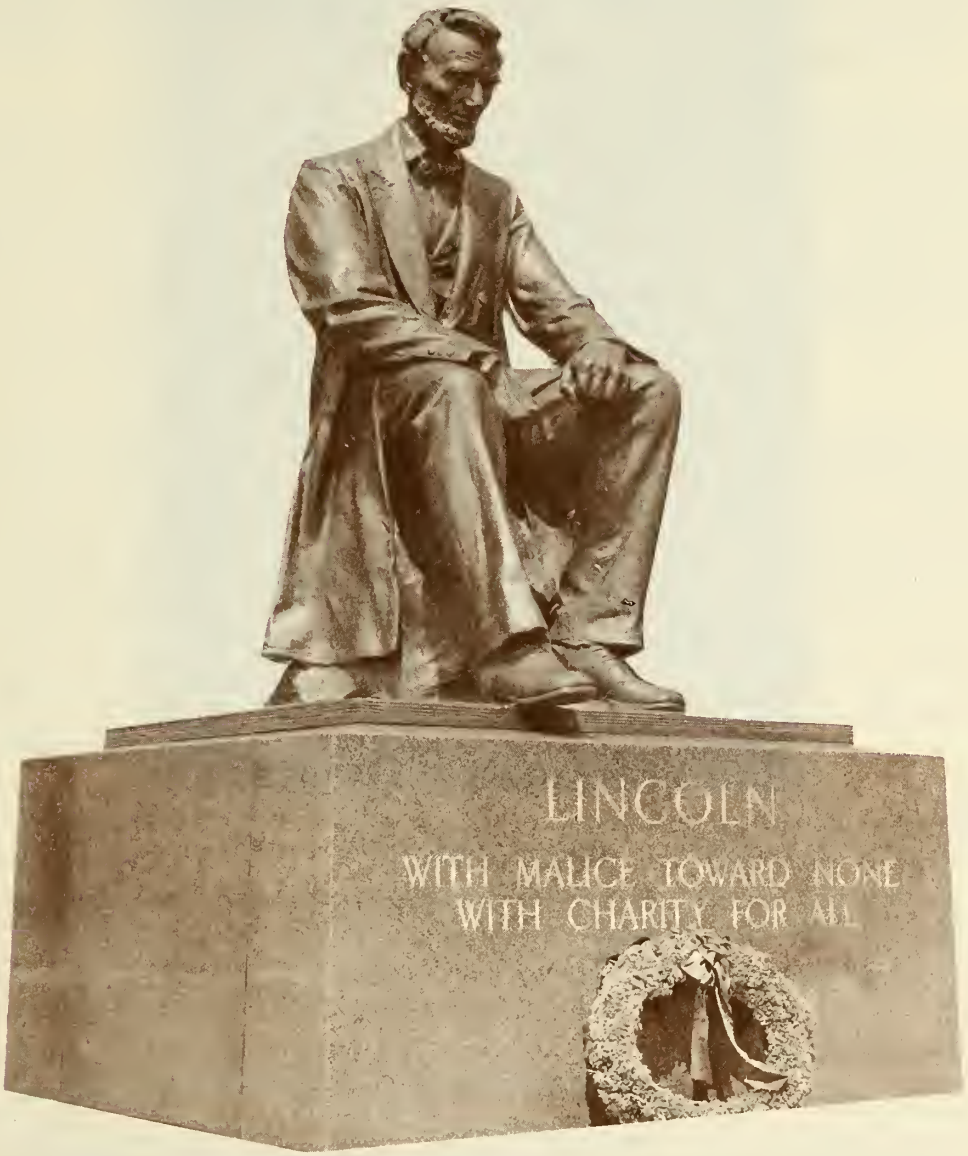
Salt caravans crossing the Sahara Desert sometimes consisted of as many as 20,000 camels, each carrying loads weighting from about 350 pounds to as much as 1,000 pounds.

Wabash, Ind. Plain Dealer, Feb. 14, 1969

The Story of

THE LINCOLN MONUMENT

and its Donor — Alexander New



by Homer T. Showalter

WABASH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



1861 — ALEXANDER NEW — 1931



THE STORY OF THE DONOR, ALEXANDER NEW

Alexander New was born in Wabash on June 2, 1861, the son of Isaac and Henrietta New. These parents came to America from Bavaria in 1840, living first in New York City, then in Atlanta, from where they moved to Wabash. Here Isaac opened a clothing store – *I. New and Son* – which was successful and operated until 1933, in late years by Henry New.

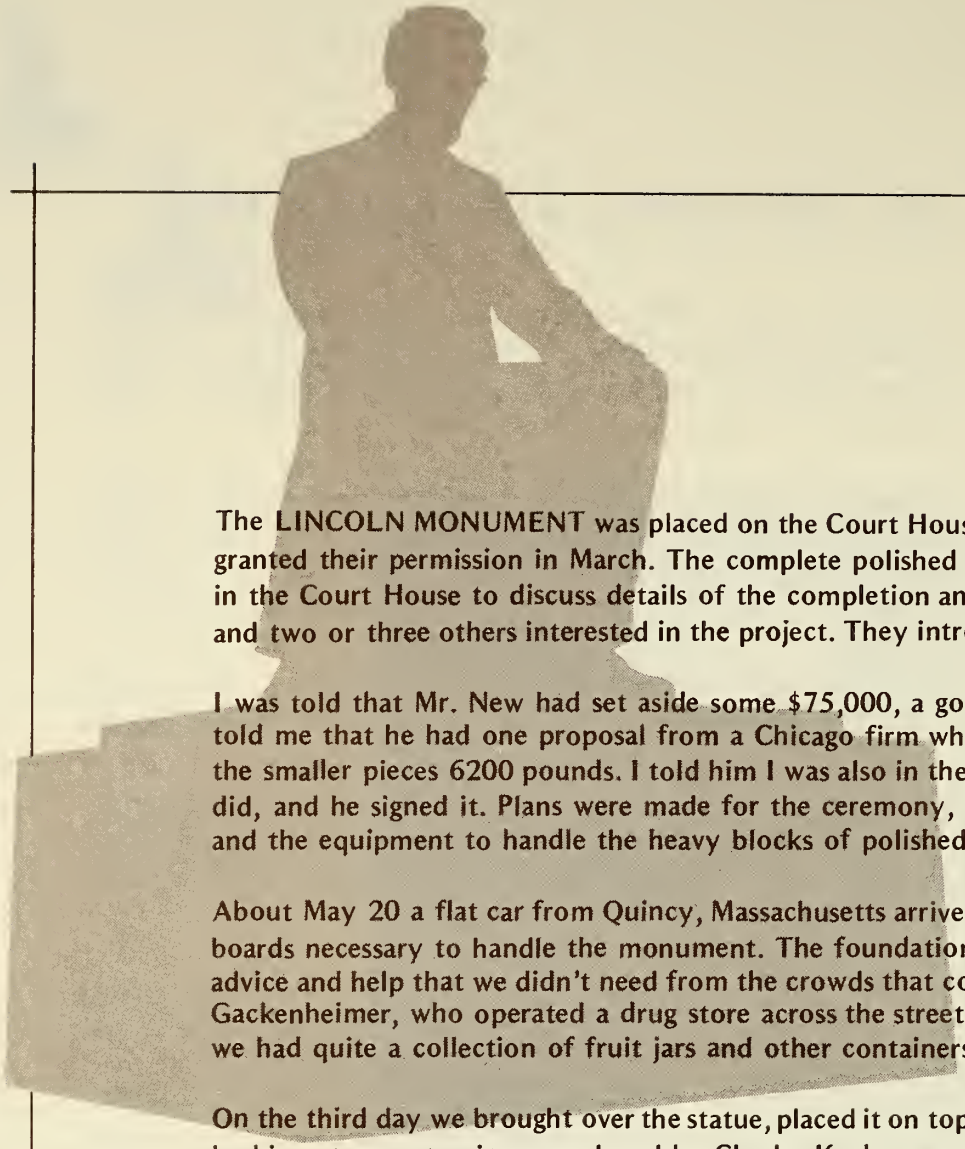
Ten children were born to Isaac and Henrietta. In addition to Alexander were brothers Charles, Joseph, Theodore, Henry and Martin, who died in infancy, and sisters Hannah N. Barth, Nell N. Livingston, Rosetta N. Myers and Jeannette N. Blumenthal. The ability of the parents to raise and educate this large family in a strange land testifies to their energy and strength of character.

Alexander New attended Wabash schools and after graduation from High School majored in Law at Washington and Jefferson University, where he was graduated in 1886. After study and experience in the office of Cowgill, Shively and Cowgill in Wabash, he went to Indianapolis where he had further experience and was admitted to the Bar. Feeling that there was better opportunity in Kansas City he moved there, became a partner in a law firm and then joined a larger firm. His success was meteoric and from 1895 to 1913 he had an excellent reputation as a trial lawyer in Kansas City and throughout the state.

He became convinced that his greatest opportunity was in Business or Corporation Law. Having inherited a talent for marketing he became known as a "business physician" and in 1915 was called to New York City to become President of Mercantile Stores Corporation. He also served as General Counsel for the Cudahy Corporation; Equitable Life Assurance Society; Oklahoma, Missouri and Gulf Railway; Penn Mutual Life; and many other widely known companies. At Kansas City he was interested in hospital expansion and other civic enterprises. After 15 years of outstanding success with Mercantile Stores he was made Board Chairman in 1930 but served in that capacity for only a year as he died in Tucson, Arizona, on April 5, 1931. He had never married, dedicating his life to his profession and public service.

In his later years Alexander New decided to provide a memorial in Wabash to his parents, who had the thrift, courage and energy to succeed in business and contribute to their city while raising a fine family. He became acquainted with the famous sculptor, Charles Keck, and commissioned him to create a statue of Abraham Lincoln, whom he had always admired. In 1930 New brought Keck to Wabash to select a site for the statue. During this last visit to his old home he spoke to boyhood friends of his love for Wabash and of his plans to present the statue to it. He is an example of a Wabash boy who had outstanding success and also the vision and the generosity to express his gratitude in an enduring and inspiring way.

The City of Wabash is eternally grateful for this gift.



The LINCOLN MONUMENT was placed on the Court House Lawn on May 31, 1932. The County Co granted their permission in March. The complete polished granite stones, properly inscribed, as well in the Court House to discuss details of the completion and acceptance of the gift. I met there a gro and two or three others interested in the project. They introduced me to a Mr. Benish of New York C

I was told that Mr. New had set aside some $75,000, a good part of which was to be used for the m told me that he had one proposal from a Chicago firm which offered to do the job for $250. I asked the smaller pieces 6200 pounds. I told him I was also in the monument business and would be happy did, and he signed it. Plans were made for the ceremony, which was set for May 31. In the meantim and the equipment to handle the heavy blocks of polished granite.

About May 20 a flat car from Quincy, Massachusetts arrived containing the granite pieces for the base boards necessary to handle the monument. The foundation had been finished six weeks before by Fr advice and help that we didn't need from the crowds that collected. Mr. New had ordered the best extra Gackenheimer, who operated a drug store across the street, came over and asked if he might place a we had quite a collection of fruit jars and other containers that people brought in.

On the third day we brought over the statue, placed it on top of the granite and uncrated it. The crowd looking at a masterpiece, produced by Charles Keck, one of the leading sculptors of his time. We ther as well as Mr. Keck, arrived during the week and were wined and dined by the elite of the city, all en

On May 31 a huge crowd, estimated at 6,000 people, gathered on the lawn, in the streets, and on the the beloved pastor of the Christian Church gave the address, and it was well received. At the proper ti with bowed head as if in deep study. It was very impressive. Mr. Keck was introduced to the crowd donor, Alexander New, and some compliments for Mr. Keck for his splendid work on the statue.

Mr. Keck told me later that he had spent two years in collecting pictures and inspecting all the Linc would go down in history as the finest Lincoln that had ever been produced. This statement was end responsibility of the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield. Charles Keck proved to be an interesting personal Mr. New, Mrs. Blumenthal and Mrs. Livingston, were delighted with him.

It was a big day in Wabash, and the statue has been the scene of annual Boy Scout Pilgrimages and d that it might be viewed at night by travelers through our city. Evergreens were planted as well as ros April 5, 1931, and did not see the project finished. He was a great American, and our city will be et the memorial, and read again and again these words inscribed thereon:

"WITH MALICE TOWARD NO

"The Great Emancipator"

nissioners had been notified previously of the wishes of Mr. New to place the memorial there and had the bronze statue were ready for shipment. As the Mayor of Wabash I was asked to sit in at a meeting of people — among them Mrs. James Wilson, Mrs. Harry Pettit, Mrs. Isaac Beitman, Mrs. J. D. Adams ', a monument dealer who had the contract for furnishing the granite and the bronze statue.

morial dedicated to his father and mother. I asked Mr. Benish who was to set the monument, and he bout the weight of the blocks of stone and he told me that four of the pieces weighed 8200 pounds and set the stone for $245. He agreed that would be fine and asked me to draw up a contract, which I made arrangements with Ollie Brown, with whom I had worked for years. He had the truck, the men

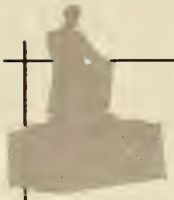
well as the bronze statue. I called Ollie Brown and we immediately got the bars, rollers, blocks and Hoffman, but it required three full days to set the several pieces and lead the joints. We had plenty of ark Quincy Granite that money could buy, all beautifully polished. In the meantime, Emmanuel ntainer of pictures and newspapers in the hollow space between the blocks. I agreed, and before long

as amazed at the size and general appearance of the Great Emancipator. I knew at once that we were overed the memorial with canvas and prepared for the big celebration. Two of the sisters of Mr. New, ving it immensely.

eps — and even the roof — of the Court House to watch and hear the program. Dr. Frank E. Jaynes, the canvas was released and several thousand people had their first glimpse of Honest Abe, sitting the sculptor, and as Mayor of the City I accepted the gift with an expression of gratitude to the

statues in America, then had modeled his statue in clay. In confidence he told me that his statue ed by Robert Kingery of Springfield, Superintendent of Parks for the State of Illinois, who had ; he didn't fit my idea of a sculptor, but appeared as a very well-dressed business man. The sisters of

orations on Lincoln's Birthday for many years. In time, spotlights were placed in front of the memorial and it is most attractive during the summer months. Unfortunately, Alexander New passed away on ally grateful to him for this wonderful gift. Every boy and girl should know the story, and should visit



THE AUTHOR

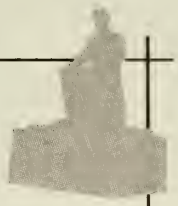
Homer T. Showalter was Mayor of Wabash from 1930 to 1935 and again from 1942 to 1947. He wrote insurance, and was also in the monument business. Born and raised in Wabash County, Homer was an enthusiastic football player in High School and later captained the Little Giants of Wabash College.

Mayor Showalter guided Wabash through the depression of the early 1930's when any public job was difficult. He was intensely loyal to his home town, and his administration brought national recognition to Wabash many times. A good example was the promotion of home gardens for city folks during the war years.

Aside from his public service, he was always most helpful as an individual in any community activity. For many years he taught a class of teen-age boys in the Christian Church Sunday School. Perhaps his methods were a bit unorthodox and the regular lesson was often delayed by an analysis of the previous day's football game, but the boys were taught self-reliance, honesty and fair play.

During the war years Homer started sending a weekly letter to boys who were serving in the armed forces. This was a real morale builder for our service men. The mailing list grew from a start of fifty to include all service men from Wabash County, and reached a total of 1595 names.

During his active years, Homer T. Showalter might well have been called "Mr. Wabash", and the record of his activities parallels closely the history of our city. We express our appreciation to Homer for bringing us some of his personal experiences. These make history more real, human and interesting.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Wabash County Historical Society is grateful to Homer T. Showalter, *a former Mayor of Wabash and an active member of the Society, for his hours of research and writing which made this booklet possible. The Society also wishes to thank* Mrs. Milton Isay *of Pittsburgh for her help in furnishing the names, dates and events in the biography of her uncle, Alexander New, and for the picture of him which will be displayed in the County Museum.*

William K. Delaplane, President
March, 1972



LINCOLN

Wabash, Indiana — SCULPTOR — Charles Keck

LINCOLN SHRINE BOY SCOUT PILGRIMAGE FEBRUARY 12

ATTENDANCE 1991 AWARD

SPONSORED BY THE LINCOLN LIBRARY AND MUSEUM







Chronicle-Tribune Sunday, February 10, 1991

2ND SUNDAY

Lincoln's Legacy
His Image Endures in Indiana



The statue of Abraham Lincoln by Charles Keck on the grounds of the Wabash County Courthouse

Image of Abe

In Wabash, a man's gift to his hometown endures as a tribute to Abraham Lincoln

By Steve Jones

A mourning prayer intoned by a handful of people, and a jubilant celebration attended by 6,000 people were part of Memorial Day in Wabash in 1932. The two events were inseparable.

The morning of May 31, 1932, the family, friends and business associates of Alexander New gathered at Wabash's Jewish Cemetery. During memorial services, they prayed the Jewish mourner's prayer — the Kaddish — at New's grave.

That afternoon, a crowd of thousands jammed the area around the Wabash County Courthouse lawn to witness the unveiling and dedication of a stately statue of Abraham Lincoln, donated to Wabash by New to honor the memory of his parents.

It was a day New had dreamed of and planned for for many years. His sudden and unexpected death in 1931 did not vanquish his dream or dash his plan.

The story of the statue is the story of Alexander New, a hometown boy who became a successful corporate lawyer, a multi-millionaire who never forgot his parents or where his roots were.

New's parents, Isaac and Henriette Lewis New, were Bavarian immigrants who settled in Wabash in 1861. Within a few years, Isaac owned and operated a Canal Street department store, I. New & Son.

Alexander New was born in 1861 in Wabash. From childhood, he wanted to become a lawyer. He graduated from Wabash High School and from Washington and Jefferson College, Washington, Pa. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school, Madison, in 1887 and was admitted to the Indiana bar the next year.

He soon moved to Kansas City, Mo., and became the city's most prominent corporate attorney.

In 1914, he went to New York City to become president of the Mercantile Stores Corp., a powerful business organization. He also served as general counsel to the Cudahy Corp., Equitable Life Assurance Society; Oklahoma, Missouri and Gulf Railway and Penn Mutual Life. He was a member of the New York Chase National Bank advisory board and was director of the American Surety Co.

Not bad for a man who, as a boy in Wabash, worked for an obscure harness maker.

While no one knows exactly when New conceived the dream for a memorial to honor his parents, his New York friends said New often told them of his love for his parents and for his hometown.

However, during a visit to Wabash during the mid-1920s, New discussed with Wabash friends the possibility he would one day present to the city a statue of Abraham Lincoln.

At some point in the late 1920s, New met with New York sculptor Charles Keck. New told Keck of his plans for a bronze Lincoln statue. He asked Keck how the sculptor would interpret Lincoln.

According to Keck's reminiscensces, he told New he would make design sketches from which New might choose the final design.

Keck proposed three designs: a standing Lincoln, a Lincoln seated in a chair and a Lincoln seated on a rock.

To help him with the design, New sought help from a friend, Frederick Meserve, a Lincoln authority who had spent years collecting and studying photographs of Lincoln.

As the three men — New, Meserve and Keck — viewed statue designs in Keck's studio, Keck proposed eliminating the Lincoln in a chair to eliminate distracting elements, leaving only Lincoln's figure.

Keck then prepared larger designs of the two remaining concepts.

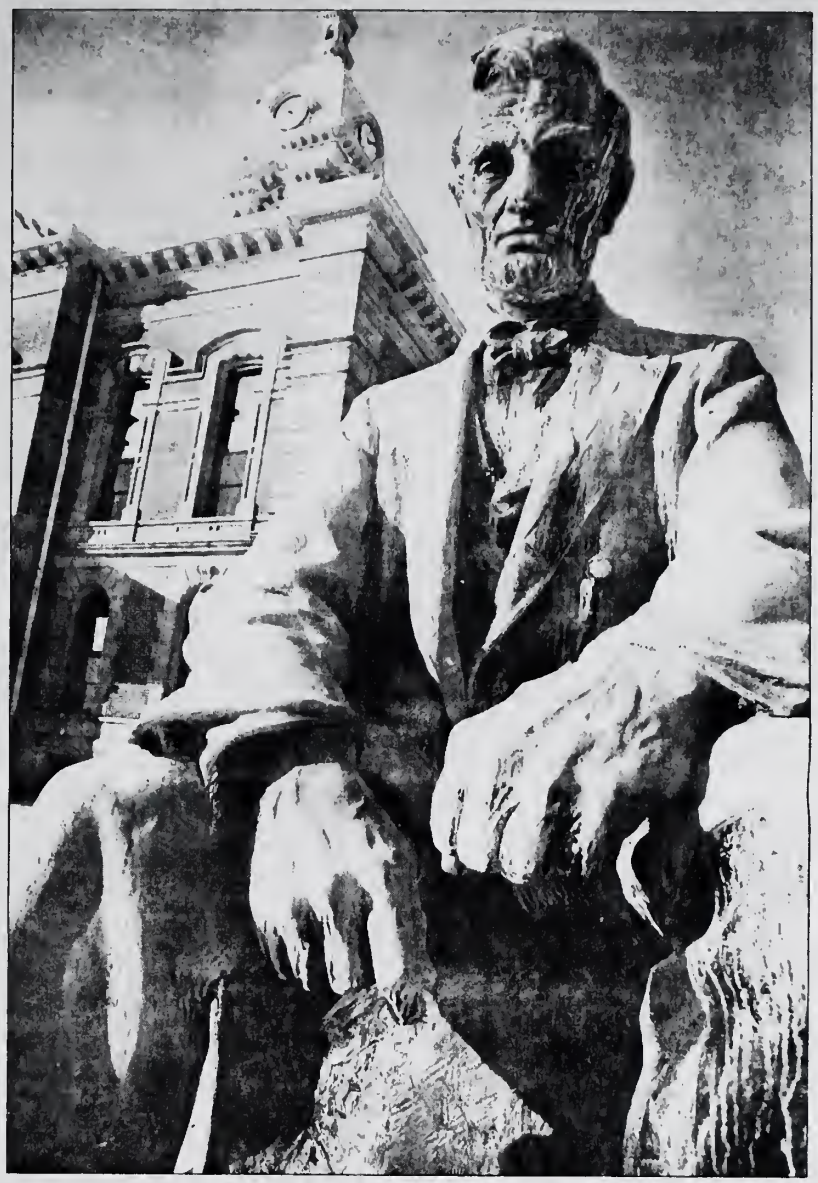
The men met again in Keck's studio.

Merserve and New liked the standing Lincoln figure. But Merserve concentrated on the figure of Lincoln seated on a rock. He spoke at length of this design, then said: "But this is an inspiration."

That settled it. New immediately chose the design for the statue that is situated on the northeast corner of the Wabash County Courthouse lawn.

In his book *Lincoln in Marble and Bronze*, F. Lauriston Bullard wrote that Keck told him he sought to express Lincoln in a simple and meditative attitude.

According to Keck, the right hand hanging loosely over the leg suggests the human and compassionate character of Lincoln. The clenched left hand expresses Lincoln's determination to do what is right. Lincoln's feet are apart and relaxed.



For 59 years, Charles Keck's Lincoln statue has graced the lawn at the Wabash County Courthouse.

(Continued on Page 8

(Continued from Page 6)

Keck's design was intended to focus attention on Lincoln's hands and face. And Lincoln sits upon a rock to indicate the great outdoors of which he was a part.

Keck began work on the statue.

In the meantime, New became chairman of the board of the Mercantile Stores Corp. Suffering from poor health, New traveled to the Southwest. He died in Tucson, Ariz., April 5, 1931.

New's body was returned to Marion to the home of his sister, Mrs. David Blumenthal, 801 W. Third St., for funeral services. New's body was cremated, and his ashes buried a few days later in the Wabash Jewish Cemetery.

At the time of his death, few people were aware that New had commissioned Keck to complete the Lincoln bronze.

New's will, probated in New York City on April 16, 1931, contained a paragraph stating Keck was making the statue and that the statue was to be erected on the Wabash County Courthouse lawn. The will also provided necessary funding.

The records of the exact cost of New's project have been lost or were never compiled. Amounts ranging from $40,000 to $75,000 are mentioned in Wabash County records.

As Keck's work progressed, New's family and Wabash city and county officials made the decision to dedicate the statue on Memorial Day — May 31, 1932.

When May rolled around, dedication plans were completed, and Wabash awaited the statue's arrival.

The Quincy granite base had been quarried in Quincy, Mass., and was shipped to a Minnesota firm for finishing and polishing.

The base and statue were shipped by rail to Wabash. The pieces arrived May 23.

The base was formed from eight granite blocks weighing a total of 14,400 pounds.

Wabash mayor and monument dealer Homer Showalter supervised setting the base and statue. Wabash truck company owner Ollie Brown furnished a truck and men to help set the base — a three day job.

On the third day, workmen placed the crated statue on the base, removed the crating and covered the bronze statue of Lincoln with canvas.

In 1967, Showalter recalled people's reaction to the first glimpse of the Lincoln figure:

"The crowd was amazed at the size and general appearance of the Great Emancipator. I knew at once that we were looking at a masterpiece, produced by Charles Keck. We then covered the memorial with canvas and prepared for the big celebration," wrote Showalter.

They gathered around to read the inscriptions on the base:

With Malice Toward None;
With Charity For All

and

Erected In Loving Memory
Of His Parents
Isaac And Henrietta New
By Alexander New
1932

Crowds began descending on Wabash several days before Memorial Day. Interurbans ran special trains to the city. Keck came from New York City.

Showalter described the Memorial Day scene at the courthouse:

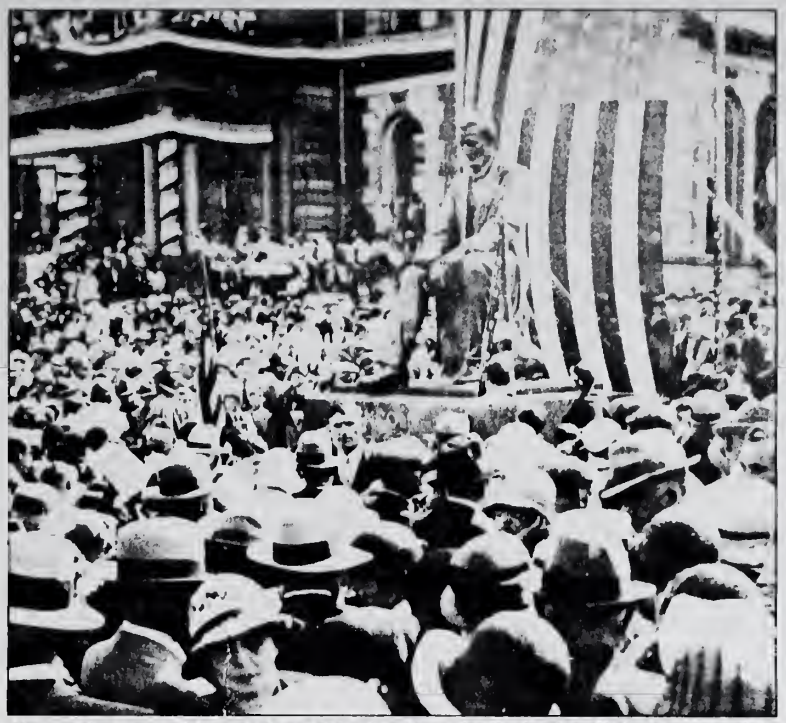
"On May 31 a huge crowd, estimated at 6,000 people, gathered on the lawn, in the streets, and on the steps — and even on the roof — of the Court House to watch and hear the program.

"At the proper time the canvas was released and several thousand people had their first glimpse of Honest Abe, sitting with bowed head as if in deep study. It was very impressive. Mr. Keck was introduced as the sculptor," Showalter wrote.

Asked to make a speech, Keck replied: "I can make a statue, but not a speech." Then he sat down.

And Keck's Lincoln statue has remained one of Wabash's treasures. It has been since that day in May of 1932 when Alexander New's dream became reality, cast in bronze, set on stone.

Steve Jones is a correspondent for the Chronicle-Tribune.



This was the scene on Memorial Day, 1932, when Alexander New's gift to Wabash was unveiled.

Keck: A legacy in bronze

Charles Keck's bronze statue of Lincoln identical to the Wabash memorial stands in Hingham, Mass.

Hingham was the home town of Lincoln's first American ancestor, Samuel Lincoln, who lived from 1630 to 1690.

Other Keck works include:

- An equestrian Stonewall Jackson and a Lewis and Clark group, both at Charlottesville, Va.;
- An equestrian Andrew Jackson at Kansas City;
- Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee, Ala.;
- Keck's bronze statue of coal miners leader John Mitchell stands at Scranton, Pa.

Keck made the Mohammed adorning the facade of the Brooklyn Museum. And his Father Duffy stands in New York's Times Square.

Keck's symbolic figures include the "America" for the Allegheny County Soldier's Memorial, Pittsburgh, Pa.; the "Liberty" at Ticonderoga, N.Y.; the "Victory" in Montclair, N.J., and a "Washington" in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



Alexander New

51st Lincoln Pilgrimage is today

For 50 years, members of the Boy Scouts of America have gathered at the Lincoln statue in Wabash to honor Abraham Lincoln during the annual Lincoln Pilgrimage — and today they will make their 51st pilgrimage.

Wabash Scout Executive Bill Visser founded the pilgrimage in 1940. The first few years, about 200 scouts from Wabash County gathered at the Lincoln statue for ceremonies.

When Wabash's Honeywell Memorial buiding was completed in the mid-1940s, pilgrimage ceremonies were shifted there. The scouts then marched to the statue for wreath-laying ceremonies.

As word of the pilgrimage spread among area scouting units, the pilgrimage expanded to include scouts from Meshingomesia District (Wabash, Grant and Blackford counties), and later to include the Sagamore Counell District, which includes central and west-central Indiana.

Today, the Honeywell Center will open at 1 p.m., with the program beginning at 2:15 p.m.

The scouts and their adult leaders will make the walk from the Honeywell Center to the Lincoln statue at 3 p.m.

The Lincoln Museum
Fort Wayne, Indiana

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October 23, 1996

Mr. James Sternberger
5010 Lillie ST
Fort Wayne IN 46806

Research #555

Dear Mr. Sternb erger:

Thank you so much for the color photographs of The President, the bronze statue by Charles Keck, which is in Wabash, Indiana.

We are enclosing a copy of the pages in Durman's book of the Statues of Abraham Lincoln which describes the statue and its provenance which we thought you might enjoy. We are placing your photographs in our Keck file for future reference and use by visiting researchers. Thank you again.

Yours very truly,

THE LINCOLN MUSEUM

James E. Eber
Research Assistant

Enclosure

Jean L. Hampach
Director



An admirer of Lincoln. CLASS "D" WINNER, submitted by Paul E. Lamale, Wabash.

KECK CHARLES
WABASH INDIANA

DRAWER 21a

SCULPTORS-K